



## STAMPEDE



In this Friday, March 17, 2017, file photo, a sign advertises a program that allows food stamp recipients to use their EBT cards to shop at a farmer's market in Topsham, Maine.

Associated Press  
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## Trump proposal seeks to crack down on food stamp 'loophole'

By DAVID A. LIEB  
Associated Press

Residents signing up for food stamps in Minnesota are provided a brochure about domestic violence, but it doesn't matter if they even read the pamphlet. The mere fact it was made available could allow them to qualify for government food aid if their earnings or savings exceed federal limits.

As odd as that might sound, it's not actually unusual.

Thirty-eight other states also have gotten around federal income or asset limits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by using federal welfare grants to produce materials informing food stamp applicants about other available social services. Illinois, for example, produced a flyer briefly listing 21 services, a website and email address and a telephone number for more information.

The tactic was encouraged by former President Barack Obama's administration as a way for states to route federal food aid to households that might not otherwise qualify under a strict enforcement of federal guidelines. Now President Donald Trump's administration is proposing to end the practice — potentially eliminating food stamps for more than 3 million of the nation's 36 million recipients.

The proposed rule change, outlined this past week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has highlighted



In this Feb. 27, 2019, file photo, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue testifies during a House Agriculture Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

the ideological clash between Trump's attempts to tighten government entitlement programs and efforts in some states to widen the social safety net.

It's also stirred outrage and uncertainty among some who stand to be affected. "I think it's pretty rotten," said Lisa Vega, a single mother of two teenage boys in suburban Chicago who applied for food stamps last month after losing her job. Because she receives regular support payments from her ex-husband, Vega said her eligibility for food stamps likely hinges on the income eligibility exceptions that Trump's administration is trying to end.

"A lot of these politicians don't realize that us Ameri-

cans out here are living paycheck to paycheck, one crisis away from being homeless," Vega said. "You're just going to take this kind of stuff away from us when we need it the most?" Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said the proposed rule change is intended to close a "loophole" that states have misused to "effectively bypass important eligibility guidelines." Current federal guidelines forbid people who make more than 130 percent of the poverty level from getting food stamps. But many states believe the cap is too restrictive, especially in cities with a high cost of living, prompting them to bypass the limits.

At issue is a federal policy

that allows people who receive benefits through other government programs, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, to automatically qualify for the food aid program known as SNAP. The practice, called categorical eligibility, is intended partly to reduce duplicative paperwork. It has also allowed states to grant food stamps to more people.

In 2009, Obama's Agriculture Department sent a memo to its regional directors encouraging states to adopt what it termed as "broad-based categorical eligibility" for food stamps by providing applicants with a minimal TANF-funded benefit such as an informational pamphlet or

telephone hotline. Among other things, Obama's administration said the expanded eligibility could help families stung by a weak economy and promote savings among low-income households.

Most states adopted the strategy. Thirty states and the District of Columbia are using income limits higher than the federal standard of \$1,316 monthly for an individual or \$2,252 for a family of three. Thirty-nine states and the District of Columbia have either waived asset limits entirely or set them above federal thresholds, according to the Agriculture Department.

The department's inspector general has raised concerns about the tactic. It also came under public scrutiny last year after self-described millionaire Rob Undersander testified before the Minnesota legislature that he and his wife had legally received about \$6,000 in food stamps over 19 months because his considerable assets and Individual Retirement Account withdrawals didn't count against his eligibility. Undersander, who is a Trump supporter, told The Associated Press this week that he had been trying to make a point — not game the system — and praised Trump's administration for proposing to tighten eligibility standards.

"I think that states just found this loophole, and then I think they've been abusing a loophole," Undersander said. □



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## NYC police seek 2 shooters in Brooklyn playground shooting

By DEEPTI HAJELA  
MALLIKA SEN

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A popular community festival was coming to a close when gunfire erupted in a Brooklyn neighborhood, leaving one man dead, another person in critical condition and 10 others wounded, authorities said Sunday as they searched for two shooters they believe were involved.

New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill said the shooting late Saturday in the borough's Brownsville section "was a tragic end to a wonderful weekend" that involved thousands of people gathering to take part in the annual Old Timers Event, which featured musical performances from former residents and current local talent.

The crowd at the celebration was dispersing when gunshots rang out from a playground area in the park where it was taking place, officials said.

Twelve people were hit — seven men and five women between the ages of 21 and 55. A 38-year-old man died from a bullet wound to the head. His name was not immediately released. Six of the wounded had been released from the hospital by midday Sunday, O'Neill said.

No arrests have been made, and authorities asked anyone with information or cellphone video to come forward. One gun was recovered. O'Neill said gang activity was among the possible motives.

"There were a lot of people just chilling and having a

good time," Kaseem Collins, 19, told the Daily News. Then, when shots rang out, "we all started running," he said. "I ran as fast as I could away from everyone. I thought I was going to get shot."

"I heard shots, and I saw a stampede running toward me," Diamond Perez, 38, told the newspaper.

The Old Timers Event had been held since 1963, O'Neill said.

A 2010 newsletter from the parks department described it as a celebration of former members of the Brownsville Recreation Center "who went on to success and fame in sports and other endeavors." It said the event has grown over the years to include concerts and other things. Speaking at a news conference on Sunday, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the two-day block party was an "example of everything good about the Brownsville community" and decried the shooting as a "tragedy" that does not define the neighborhood.

Videos posted on social media showed police clearing large groups of people out of the area around the recreation center. Photos from local news outlets showed several people taken away on stretchers, including some with what appeared to be minor wounds.

"It was chaos," Gary Miller, a 60-year-old vendor at the event, told the New York Post. Witnesses heard 9 to 11 shots, "and everyone was running and scattering for cover." Brownsville is

an east Brooklyn neighborhood that's continued to struggle with gun violence, even as New York streets become safer than they have been in decades.

Activists and elected officials spoke out on the need for more resources to go toward community groups and anti-violence programs, as well as efforts to crack down on illegal guns. "We don't need bumper-sticker slogans, we need real partnership on the ground," Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams said. □



A police officer walks by yellow evidence markers at a playground in the Brownsville neighborhood in the Brooklyn borough of New York, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press

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# Mississippi River city ponders a wall it has long rejected

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE

MARGERY A. BECK

Associated Press

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) —

Hundreds of communities line the Mississippi River on its 2,348-mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico, but Davenport, Iowa, stands out for the simple reason that people there can actually dip their toes in the river without scaling a flood wall, levee or other impediment. It's a point of pride in Davenport, a city of 100,000 people that calls itself Iowa's front porch and which has repeatedly tolerated the floods that have long since convinced all other major riverfront cities to build concrete or dirt walls. "It's the personality of the community," said Kelli Grubbs, who runs a business a few blocks from the nearly half-mile-wide river. "There is just a great love of the river."

That love is being tested this summer after record-setting floods broke through temporary barriers and for weeks inundated some of Davenport's trendiest restaurants and shops with foul-smelling water. Now



A vendor shack near the Mississippi River shows high water marks from past floods, Tuesday, July 16, 2019, in Davenport, Iowa.

Associated Press

that the river has finally seeped back to its banks, business owners and city officials are confronting a painful question: Can they still remain connected with the river without being overwhelmed by it?

Looming over the discussions is an acknowledgment of what's likely coming from climate change:

heavier rainstorms that, combined with spring snowmelt, will swell the river to ever higher levels.

Davenport is one of the many communities across the nation struggling with their past assumptions about the weather. Even as residents scoff at the prospect of a concrete wall or rocky levee replac-

ing the gently sloping lawn that dips down to the river, they wonder if a downtown that has seen roughly \$500 million in investment in recent years can survive being awash and cut off from the rest of the city so frequently.

This spring a key road was closed for 100 days and fans couldn't reach the riverside minor league baseball stadium. A popular brewery credited with spurring a downtown revival is still closed because its equipment was submerged.

Of the 15 biggest floods in Davenport's history, seven have occurred since 2008. "Obviously, the weather is not getting any better," said Kyle Carter, executive director of the Downtown Davenport Partnership, a business group. "Regardless of why you think it's happening, it's happening."

Davenport owes much of its roughly 200-year-old history to the Mississippi River, which was instrumental in the area's selection as a fort. The river allowed steamboats to reach the community and later led to bridges that connected people and products to large cities to the east.

That history is one reason that despite repeated flooding in the last 40 years — especially severe in 1969, 1975, 1993 and 2001 —

Davenport residents have largely supported a modest containment system that includes a wide strip of grass and Nahant Marsh, a 305-acre wetland.

During more serious flooding, large sand-filled temporary barriers can be placed on River Drive, which runs parallel to the river, to protect the low-lying business district. Most homes are safely perched on the hills rising steeply to the north.

But this spring, separate crests repeatedly pressured and finally breached the barriers, causing an estimated \$30 million in lost revenue and damage.

"For a week or two, people were boating down the street," said Grubbs, who rushed to save expensive equipment in her virtual reality gaming business when water began surging inside. Davenport residents also couldn't help but notice that across the river in Rock Island, Illinois — where a permanent floodwall was erected after floods in 1993 — the city stayed almost completely dry. Bettendorf and Moline, Illinois, the other two communities that make up the Quad Cities, also have floodwalls and didn't flood.

Mayor Frank Klipsch has formed a task force to consider options, which include setting aside more land that could be open for flooding and improving the system of temporary barriers protecting the city's nine miles of riverfront.

"It's not so simple as 'let's go build a wall,'" Klipsch said. "Our riverfront is one of the major attributes of our community. We want to be able to maintain that and embrace the Mississippi River."

One factor is the \$175 million or higher cost of a flood wall that would have to be mostly locally funded. But another is that an expanded buffer would be less reliable and require a lot of property.

Environmentalists support giving the river more room instead of a wall, but the pragmatic concerns weigh heavy. □

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# Attorney: Hunger-striking immigrants forced to hydrate

By CEDAR ATTANASIO

GARANACE BURKE

MARTHA MENDOZA

Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) —

Three Indian nationals seeking asylum in the U.S. have been forced to receive IV drips at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Texas as they approach their third week of a hunger strike, according to their attorney.

Lawyers and activists who spoke with the men fear that force-feeding may be next.

The U.S. Department of Justice filed orders with federal judges last week that relate to non-consensual hydration or feeding for four men, according to a court official. Linda Corchado, the lawyer for three of the four men named in the court orders, said the fourth man is also Indian and is represented by another attorney. It's unclear if that man was also forced to accept an IV.

The men have been locked up for months — one for more than a year — and they are trying to appeal or reopen asylum claims that were denied, according to Corchado. As of Sunday, they had gone 20 days without food, she said.

"My clients made the decision to begin a hunger strike to protest prolonged detention and what they believe were biased and discriminatory practices by the immigration court toward their cases," Corchado said.

ICE confirmed that there were detainee hunger strikes at its facilities in El Paso and Otero, New Mexico, late last week, but it would not comment on the claims of forced hydration or force-feeding.

"All ten ICE detainees have



In this June 2018 file photo, protesters walk along Montana Avenue outside the El Paso Processing Center in El Paso, Texas.

Associated Press

missed at least nine consecutive meals, triggering ICE hunger-strike protocols," agency spokesman Timothy Oberle said in a statement. "The ICE Health Services Corps (IHSC) is medically monitoring the detainees' health and regularly updating ICE of their medical status. Efforts are being taken to protect the detainees' health and privacy."

One of the hunger strikers in Otero was deported to India eight days into his hunger strike, according to Corchado. ICE does not confirm deportations.

Corchado said her three clients stopped eating while they were at the Otero immigration detention facility to protest their prolonged detention. After more than a week of hunger striking, they were transferred to the El Paso Processing Center, which is about 30 miles (50

kilometers) south of Otero, in West Texas.

One of the men told the AP on Tuesday that he overheard medical staff say they were being transferred to El Paso for force-feeding.

On Thursday, Corchado met with her clients, who showed her IV equipment and needle pricks in their arms. She said they told her that medical staff showed them documents that they said were court orders for IV drips, but didn't give them copies. When the immigrants refused a protein-filled drink that would have effectively ended their hunger strikes, the medical staff started the IVs against their will.

ICE did not immediately reply to a request for comment Sunday regarding the forced hydration. □

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## Biden's full embrace of Obama health law has political risks

By **BILL BARROW**  
Associated Press

Joe Biden had just rolled out his health care plan when he made what could be a fateful pledge to a crowd in Iowa: "If you like your health care plan or your employer-based plan, you can keep it."

The remark echoed assurances President Barack Obama made repeatedly as he sold the Affordable Care Act, which became known as "Obamacare." But Obama's promise proved an exaggeration, if not a falsehood, and it anchored early GOP attacks on the law as new regulations led private insurers to cancel certain policies, even if they had to offer replacements to consumers.

Biden's promise on job-based coverage, which almost 160 million Americans use, underscores the risks of positioning himself as the health overhaul's chief defender. Fully embracing the health law and pledging to expand it also means exposing Biden to attacks from all sides: from the left that wants more than what Biden is offering; from the right that loathes the law in any form; and from the middle, where voters remain skeptical about the nation's complex and expensive health care system.

"This is one of those issues where the pendulum has swung back-and-forth since 'Obamacare'



In this July 23, 2019, photo, Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks in New Orleans.

passed," Democratic pollster Paul Maslin said, pointing to health care's role in Republican victories in 2010 and Democratic wins last November. "Right now we have the advantage," Maslin said, "but I'd be a fool to say there's no risk here."

Indeed, the Republican National Committee has seized on Biden's policy rollout. "Biden has to deal with the fact that he would be the 2020 face of Barack Obama's notorious lie that if you like your health care plan you can keep it," said Steve Guest of the Republican National Committee. Biden is at the center of a broader Democratic divide over the future of

health care that will likely be an animating issue at this week's primary debate in Detroit.

The former vice president is proposing to add a "public option" that would allow Americans to choose whether to buy government insurance or buy private policies. He also would boost existing subsidies that consumers use to buy policies on the law's exchanges. That would mark a significant expansion but still be a more incremental approach than Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' "Medicare for All" proposal, which would essentially replace the private market with government insurance. Biden's campaign says his

position reflects voters' slow embrace of the 2010 law, while acknowledging voters' concerns about the cost and consequences of a single-payer, government health insurance system and their distrust of private insurers and the pharmaceutical industry.

"I knew the Republicans would do everything in their power to repeal 'Obamacare,'" Biden says in an online campaign ad. "They still are. But I'm surprised that so many Democrats are running on getting rid of it ... and if I'm elected president, I'm going to do everything in my power to protect it and build on it." An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Re-

search poll this spring found 57% of adults wanted the health law to remain; 42% percent said it should be kept, but with changes. Four out of 10 favored a rollback, but just half of those called for total repeal. Meanwhile, 53% favored adding a nonmandatory government insurance plan to the market; less than one-fifth opposed that course. That's a more favorable split than on single-payer, which garnered 43% support and 31% opposition.

Which party ultimately wins on health care, Maslin and other Democrats argue, depends on who voters believe will better protect access to care, regardless of the details. "People still don't like the way the market works," from rising premiums to spiking drug costs, Maslin noted, but they distrust a politician "who might be taking something away."

Republicans capitalized in 2010, when voters saw Obama's new law — adopted but not yet in place — as the threat and rewarded the GOP's mantra of "repeal and replace." By 2018, after years of GOP failures to offer an alternative, voters had grown accustomed to key provisions, chiefly the guarantee of coverage for those with existing health conditions and Medicaid expansion to cover the working poor and lower middle class. □





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# Scott says he wasn't told about Russian hacking in 2016

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — U.S. Sen. Rick Scott said Sunday that he was never told by Homeland Security officials in 2016 when he was Florida's governor that Russian hackers had gained access to voter databases in two Florida counties ahead of the presidential election. Scott said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he was never contacted by the Department of Homeland Security in 2016 about the infiltration. The Republican said he learned about most of the details this year.

Current Gov. Ron DeSantis said in May that the hackers didn't manipulate any data and the election results weren't compromised. DeSantis and other officials briefed on the matter wouldn't say which counties.

"And the bottom line is, they got into two counties. But they had no impact," Scott said. "They didn't change any voter registration, voter rolls. They didn't change any votes."

Scott made his comments when asked about a Senate report released last week that said all states were targeted to varying degrees by Russian hackers. Scott said he hasn't yet read the report, though he was briefed on it.

"You haven't read this report yet?" said Chuck Todd, the show's host. "It got released on Thursday. I'm sorry."

Last August, then-Democratic U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, who Scott was running against, said that Rus-

sians had penetrated the systems of certain Florida counties and had "free rein to move about" before last year's midterm election. Scott, who defeated Nelson in the November election, criticized Nelson's allegations, saying they were sensational.

The Senate report outlined efforts by Russian hackers to get into systems in Illinois and around two dozen unnamed states. It detailed attempts in Illinois and a state only referred to as "State 2" but widely believed to be Florida, according to newsreports.

The FBI believed at one point in 2018 that four county systems in "State 2" may have been infiltrated or been the target of suspicious activity, according to the Senate report.

The Senate report also said the FBI had opened an investigation into suspicious activity in "State 2" as early as August 2016 and had conducted outreach to county elections officials.

In December 2017, the secretary of state and elections director in "State 2" told members of the Senate Intelligence Committee that there never was an attack on the state's systems.

The state officials didn't want to share its "cyber-security posture" with the committee, but the report says the Department of Homeland Security was "complimentary" of the steps the state had taken to secure its voting systems by August 2018.

On Sunday, Scott main-

tained there was no infiltration of Florida election systems in the 2018 election. But Scott warned that Russia, Iran, and China were working to impact the 2020 elections.

"Everybody needs to work together to make sure this doesn't happen," Scott said. "But all of us have to understand the Russians are here and other countries. They're going to try to influence our elections." □



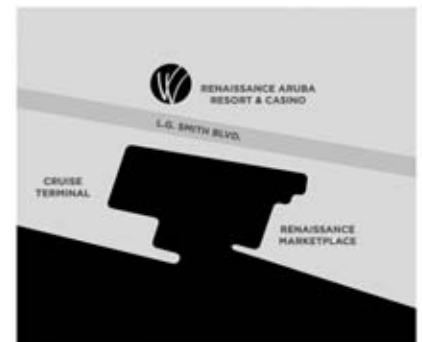
In this Jan. 17, 2019, file photo, U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., discusses the government shutdown during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press



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## Diplomats recommit to saving Iran deal, oppose US sanctions

By KIYOKO METZLER

Associated Press

**VIENNA (AP)** — Diplomats from Iran and five world powers recommitted Sunday to salvaging a major nuclear deal amid mounting tensions between the West and Tehran since the U.S. withdrew from the accord and reimposed sanctions.

Representatives of Iran, Germany, France, Britain, China, Russia and the European Union met in Vienna to discuss the 2015 agreement that restricts the Iranian nuclear program.

"The atmosphere was constructive, and the discussions were good," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi told reporters after the meeting ended.



The European Union's political director Helga Schmid and Iran's deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, center from left, wait for a bilateral meeting as part of the closed-door nuclear talks with Iran at a hotel in Vienna, Austria, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press

"I cannot say that we resolved everything" but all the parties are still "determined to save this deal," he added.

Fu Cong, the head of Chi-

nese delegation, said that while there were "some tense moments" during the meeting, "on the whole the atmosphere was very good.

Friendly. And it was very professional." Both diplomats said there was a general agreement to organize a higher-level meeting of foreign ministers soon, but also that preparations for such a summit needed to be done well. A date has not been set.

Iran is pressuring the re-

maining parties to the deal to offset the sanctions U.S. President Donald Trump reinstated after pulling out. The country recently surpassed the uranium stockpile and enrichment limits set out in the agreement, saying the action could be reversed if the other parties came up with economic incentives.

Experts warn that higher enrichment level and a growing uranium stockpile narrow the one-year window that Iran would need

to have enough material to make an atomic bomb, something Iran denies it wants but that the deal prevented.

So far, neither Iran's announcement that it exceeded the amount of low-enriched uranium allowed under the deal nor its revelation it had begun enriching uranium past the 3.67% purity allowed, to 4.5%, are seen as violations likely to prompt the European parties to invoke a dispute resolution mechanism.

Both of Iran's actions were verified by the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

At the Sunday meeting, Fu said, the Europeans urged Iran to come back to full compliance and Iran urged the European Union, France, Britain and Germany to implement their part of the deal.

Fu said all sides expressed strong opposition against the unilateral imposition of sanctions by the U.S., especially the extraterritorial application of the sanctions. □

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## Lawyer: Romania suspect admits killing 2 teenagers

**BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)**

— The lawyer for a man detained by police in Romania said Sunday that his client has admitted killing two female teenagers.

Lawyer Bogdan Alexandru told Romanian media that Gheorghe Dinca said he had killed 15-year-old Alexandra Macesanu and 18-year-old Luiza Melencu and burned their bodies. Macesanu was abducted Thursday, while Melencu went missing in April.

Romania's police chief

resigned Friday after allegations that officers were too slow in responding to Macesanu's phone calls to a national emergency hotline saying she had been abducted and raped by a man who picked her up while she was hitchhiking. President Klaus Iohannis made a televised statement Sunday night discussing the missteps in police work.

"Romanian institutions failed in their duty to protect the fundamental right

to life," Iohannis said. "Those responsible will have to face harsh punishment. Sentences, however harsh, do not bring back lost lives. We must identify means to prevent such tragedies from ever being repeated." Over 100 people attended a rally Sunday night in Bucharest, the Romanian capital, in memory of the teen victims. It was organized by women's rights groups and organizations combatting domestic violence. □



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## Hungary's Orban critical of EU leaders on migration, economy

By PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)

— Hungary's prime minister said Saturday that the European Union has made "grave mistakes" in the past five years regarding immigration and the economy. The European Commission needs to allow a council of EU interior ministers to decide migration issues, comparing their role to the so-called Eurogroup, the finance ministers of the countries using the euro currency, Prime Minister Viktor Orban said at a Hungarian cultural festival in the Romanian town of Baile Tusnad.

Orban also took exception to what he described as the "political activism" of the European Commission, which has launched numerous procedures against the Hungarian government on issues where it is consid-



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban arrives on the stage to speak at the 30th Balvanyos Summer University and Students' Camp in Baile Tusnad, Transylvania, Romania, Saturday, July 27, 2019.

Associated Press

ered to be in contravention of EU rules. Over the years these, have included objections to laws seen as limiting the rights of asylum-seekers or intimidating civic

groups that help them, or special taxes targeting, for example, media companies independent of the government, banks and foreign companies.

"The commission ... needs to behave as the guard of the EU agreements and abandon political activism," Orban said. "It is not a political body, it should not have a

program and it should not carry out political attacks on members states."

Orban is scheduled to meet the European Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday in Brussels. Orban supported her candidacy and has indicated that he expects her to have a more conciliatory position toward Hungary and other countries in the region often at odds with the majority EU stance on issues like migration and environmental standards. Hungary is also facing a so-called Article 7 procedure initiated by the European Parliament because of concerns about the rule of law, which the Hungarian government claims is motivated, as with practically any criticism it has received in the past four years, by its "zero tolerance" of migration, especially by Muslims. □

## Nearly 1,400 detained in Moscow protest; largest in decade

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA

MOSCOW (AP)

— Nearly 1,400 people were detained in a violent police crackdown on an opposition protest in Moscow, a Russian monitoring group said Sunday, adding that was the largest number of detentions at a rally in the Russian capital this decade.

OVD-Info, which has monitored police arrests since 2011, said the number of the detentions from Saturday's protest reached 1,373 by early Sunday. The overwhelming majority of people were soon released but 150 remained in cus-

tody, OVD-Info and a lawyers' legal aid group said Sunday.

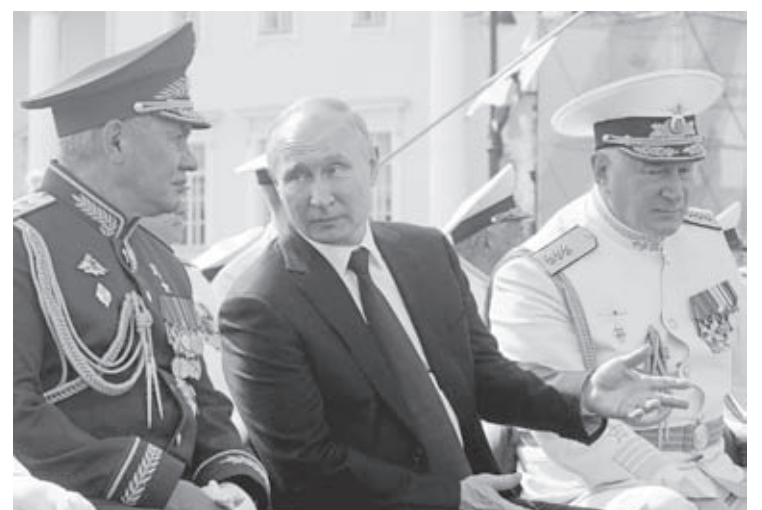
Crackdowns on the anti-government protesters began days before the rally. Opposition leader Alexei Navalny was arrested and sentenced Wednesday to 30 days in jail for calling for Saturday's protest against election authorities who barred some opposition candidates from running in the Sept. 8 vote for Moscow city council.

Navalny was unexpectedly hospitalized Sunday with a severe allergy attack, his spokeswoman said.

Kira Yarmysh said Navalny,

who did not have any allergies beforehand, was taken from the Moscow jail to a hospital in the morning, arriving with severe facial swelling and red rashes. Hours later, she said Navalny was in a "satisfactory condition."

Russian police violently dispersed thousands of people who thronged the streets of Moscow on Saturday to protest the move by election authorities. Several protesters reported broken limbs and head injuries. Police justified their response by saying that the rally was not sanctioned by authorities. □



Russian President Vladimir Putin, gestures while speaking to Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu as Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy listens to him during the military parade during the Navy Day celebration in St. Petersburg, Russia, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press





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## 7 Israeli teens freed after woman recants Cyprus rape report

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS  
Associated Press

**PARALIMNI, Cyprus (AP)**

— Seven Israeli teenagers were freed from custody in Cyprus on Sunday after a British teen admitted her report of being raped by a dozen people was untrue, defense lawyers and a Cypriot official said.

Investigators concluded the 19-year-old accuser's allegations "didn't stand to reason," Yiannis Habaris, a lawyer for two of the Israelis, said. The young woman was arrested and faces a public nuisance charge, he said.

A law enforcement official told The Associated Press the woman voluntarily recanted during questioning just after midnight, saying there had been sexual contact with the suspects but she wasn't raped.

The official spoke on condi-



An Israeli teenager is embraced by relatives after being released from Famagusta police headquarters in southeast town of Paralimni, Cyprus, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press

tion of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss details of the case. The state-run Cyprus News Agency reported that the

woman allegedly told investigators she filed a rape report because she was "angry and insulted" that some of the Israelis alleg-

edly recorded video of her having consensual sex with a number of them. The woman has a custody hearing scheduled for

Monday.

Habaris and another defense lawyer, Nir Yavlovitzh, told reporters they intend to sue the young woman on behalf of those she accused, who were detained for 11 days.

"We will proceed with legal action against the individual that made the false allegations, for damages, for every day and every moment they were in prison falsely," Habaris said.

Yavlovitzh said the seven ranged in age from 15 to 18 and the young woman "needs to think clearly about what she (did) to the boys who stayed in jail."

The Israelis' parents wept and where "shocked" when they learned Sunday morning that their sons would be freed from police district headquarters in the town of Paralimni, according to Yavlovitzh. □

## Blast, gunbattle at Afghan VP candidate's office, 2 dead



Afghan security forces arrive at the site of attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** —

The first day of the Afghan presidential campaign began with a large bomb and gun attack in the capital, Kabul, targeting the office of the president's running mate, officials said, leaving at least two people dead and 25 wounded.

Several gunmen remained holed up inside the building for over six hours before being killed by security forces, said Nasrat Rahimi, the interior ministry spokesman. The attackers' potential target, vice-presidential candidate and former intelligence chief Amrul-

lah Saleh, was "evacuated from the building and moved to a safe location," Rahimi said. Some 85 other civilians were also rescued from inside.

At least two gunmen were trapped for hours in the top floor of the four-story building, exchanging fire with security forces, he said. Three other attackers were killed in the fighting.

President Ashraf Ghani tweeted that Saleh was unharmed during the "complex attack" targeting the Green Trend party headquarters.

One civilian woman was

among those killed in the attack, said Wahidullah Mayar, the health ministry spokesman.

Ferdous Faramarz, the spokesman for Kabul's police chief, said the explosion was likely a suicide car bomb.

The blast was large enough to be heard throughout the capital.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but both Taliban insurgents and the Islamic State group are active in the capital and have carried out attacks there in the past. □



# Police fire tear gas, rubber bullets at Hong Kong protesters

Associated Press

**HONG KONG (AP)** — Police in Hong Kong fired tear gas and rubber bullets repeatedly Sunday to drive back protesters blocking streets with road signs and umbrellas in another night of pitched battles in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

It was the second night in a row that tear gas was used in escalating pro-democracy protests. The demonstrations began early last month to voice opposition to an extradition bill that has since been suspended, but the movement has grown to encompass a broader push for full democracy.

Protesters occupied two areas at opposite ends of central Hong Kong on Sunday following a mid-afternoon rally against police use of tear gas at a demonstration the previous weekend.

On the western end of Hong Kong Island, one group blocked areas near the Chinese government's liaison office and began to move forward as night fell. Police issued warnings, and protesters threw eggs at them. Officers fired tear gas to halt the advance. Police then embarked on an hourslong effort to push the protesters eastward and get them to disperse. In repeated standoffs, spontaneous but highly organized protesters set up behind scaffolding that they built across a street. Police lined up behind clear shields about 30 meters (100 feet) down the road. Dozens of journalists in bright yellow vests stood in between the two on the sidelines.

The police would advance gradually, firing bursts of tear gas. Protesters in hard hats scurried about, rearranging makeshift barriers of pilfered road signs and other items. By the time the police reached the scaffolding, they had backed off about 6 meters (20 feet). Another team of officers, more mobile with smaller shields, then swept in to clear the area. Some protesters were detained,



Hong Kong police fire tear gas at protesters in Sai Wan, Hong Kong on Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press

Hong Kong media reported.

Hong Kong has been wracked by protests for seven weeks. Initially, the protesters were demanding the scrapping of a proposed extradition law that would send suspects to mainland China to face trials. The legislation is seen as a threat to Hong Kong's freedoms that were guaranteed for 50 years when China took back control of the former British colony in 1997.

The bill was eventually suspended, but the protesters then called for the resignation of the city's leader and an investigation into whether police have used excessive force in quelling the protests.

Underlying the movement is a push for full democracy in the city, whose leader is chosen by a committee dominated by a pro-Beijing establishment, rather than by direct elections.

Earlier Sunday, protesters rallied at a park in Hong Kong's financial district before marching out in several directions despite not winning police approval for a public procession. It was the second straight day that protesters took to the streets without official permission.

A sea of black-shirted protesters, some with bright yellow helmets and masks but many with just backpacks, streamed out of

Chater Garden park. Chanting "Add oil," a phrase that roughly means "Keep up the fight," a huge crowd marched east down a wide thoroughfare.

They stopped near the Sogo department store and set up barricades to block off the area and defend it against police.

Another group headed west toward mainland China's liaison office. Protesters egged the office last weekend and splattered black ink on the national emblem, eliciting an angry reaction from the Chinese government.

Some stopped about two blocks short of the office and used orange and white construction barricades to build a wall spanning a major road. They massed behind the barriers as night fell, with umbrellas pointed forward to shield their identities and ward off any police move to clear them.

Some nearby stores shuttered early as police in riot gear gathered nearby ahead of the all but inevitable clearing operation.

The rally in Chater Garden was called to protest the police use of tear gas, rubber bullets and other force to break up a protest the previous Sunday.

"We need to have a protest to show that we are strongly against this kind of brutality and we need them to respond to our demands,"

said rally organizer Ventus Lau.

Police had denied Lau's request to march west to the Sheung Wan district, where the tear gas was used the previous weekend, citing escalating violence in clashes with protesters that have broken out after past marches and rallies.

"The police must prevent aggressive protesters from exploiting a peaceful procession to cause troubles and violent clashes," said Superintendent Louis Lau of the police public relations branch.

On Saturday, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets as demonstrators threw bricks and other objects and ducked behind makeshift shields at a march in an outlying district toward the border with mainland China. □

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# Guatemalan activists protest migrant asylum pact with US

By **SONNY FIGUEROA**

**Associated Press**

**GUATEMALA CITY (AP)** —

Hundreds of Guatemalans gathered Saturday to protest an agreement that President Jimmy Morales' government signed with Washington to require migrants passing through the Central American country to seek asylum here, rather than pushing on to the U.S. Carrying the blue and white national flag, demonstrators rallied in front of the presidential palace in Guatemala City. They called on Morales to resign for having caved in to U.S. demands to make Guatemala a "safe third country" for migrants, including those headed north from El Salvador and Honduras.

The protesters also carried signs calling for Guatemala to maintain its sovereignty and expressing support for a United Nations-backed anti-corruption commission that Morales expelled from the country. Morales' four-



Demonstrators demand the resignation of Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales, featured in the poster that reads in Spanish "Traitor," outside the Presidential House in Guatemala City, Saturday, July 27, 2019.

**Associated Press**

year term ends in January, and an August runoff election is scheduled to determine his successor.

Human rights activist Brenda Hernández, one of the

organizers of the protest march, said this poor nation can barely take care of its own people, much less shelter vulnerable migrants.

"Guatemala doesn't have the capacity to be a safe country for migrants that aren't desired in the United States," she said.

The same conditions driv-

ing Salvadorans and Hondurans to flee their country — gang violence, poverty, joblessness and a prolonged drought that has severely hit crop yields — are also present in Guatemala.

Guatemala's state attorney for human rights, Jordán Rodas, also criticized the accord with the U.S., saying it violates the Vienna Convention because Guatemala signed under duress. As talks toward an immigration agreement stumbled, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to tax remittances sent home by Guatemalans working in the U.S., to impose import tariffs on Guatemalan goods and to restrict travel to the U.S. by Guatemalans.

Rodas described the accord as "immoral and illegal." Guatemala's top court has said the agreement must be approved by the country's congress to be enforceable. □

# Woman set to replace Puerto Rico's governor rejects job

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— The woman who is supposed to replace Puerto Rico's embattled governor announced Sunday that she doesn't want the job as the U.S. territory reels from political crisis.

Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez said in a Twitter post that she hopes Gov. Ricardo Rosselló will appoint a secretary of state before resigning Aug. 2 as planned.

Former Secretary of State Luis Rivera Marín would have been next in line as governor, according to the U.S. territory's constitution. But he is one of more than a dozen officials who have resigned in recent weeks since someone leaked an obscenity-laced chat in which Rosselló and close advisers insulted people including women and victims of Hurricane Maria.

Rosselló on Wednesday announced that he would step down following nearly two weeks of massive protests amid anger over the



In this Jan. 16, 2018 file photo, then Puerto Rico Justice Secretary Wanda Vazquez answers reporters' questions, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**Associated Press**

chat, corruption charges against several former government officials and a 13-year recession.

Marín's resignation had left Vázquez as next in line to be governor. But she said she has already told Ros-

selló about her wishes, creating a chaotic scenario about who will be Puerto Rico's next leader.

If Rosselló's choice for a secretary of state is not approved by the island's House and Senate, Puer-

to Rico's law dictates the treasury secretary would be next in line if the justice secretary doesn't become governor. But current Treasury Secretary Francisco Parés is too young at 31 years old. The constitution

dictates the person would have to be at least 35, so that would leave interim Education Secretary Eligio Hernández next in line. He replaced former education secretary Julia Keleher, who resigned in April and was arrested July 10 on federal corruption charges. She has pleaded not guilty. Vázquez's comments came less than an hour after Public Affairs Secretary Anthony Maceira resigned. "There were many challenges that we had to face together as Puerto Ricans, although sometimes we differed," he said. "The work of each one of us must continue with the welfare of our island and its people as its north."

The announcement comes a day before Puerto Ricans planned another march, this time against Vázquez, who is accused of not ordering an investigation into the alleged mismanagement of supplies for hurricane victims, among other things. □



# LOCAL



## The honoring of the '29ers' at Paradise Beach Villas

**EAGLE BEACH** — Recently, Darline de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor a group of Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors and Distinguished Visitors at their home away from home.

**James & Terlene Todd** were honored for their 29th year consecutive visit

**Ray & Kathy Jankowiak** were honored for their 26th year consecutive visit

**Helene Sperber** was honored for her 20th year consecutive visit

**Max & Lynn Levin** were honored for their 30th year consecutive visit

**Ed & Sherrill** were honored for their 22nd year consecutive visit

**Donald & Stephane Palisay** were honored for their 28th year consecutive visit

**Eric & Durene Elem Vaughn**

were honored for their 16th year consecutive visit

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Ms. De Cuba thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years together with members of Paradise Beach Villas.

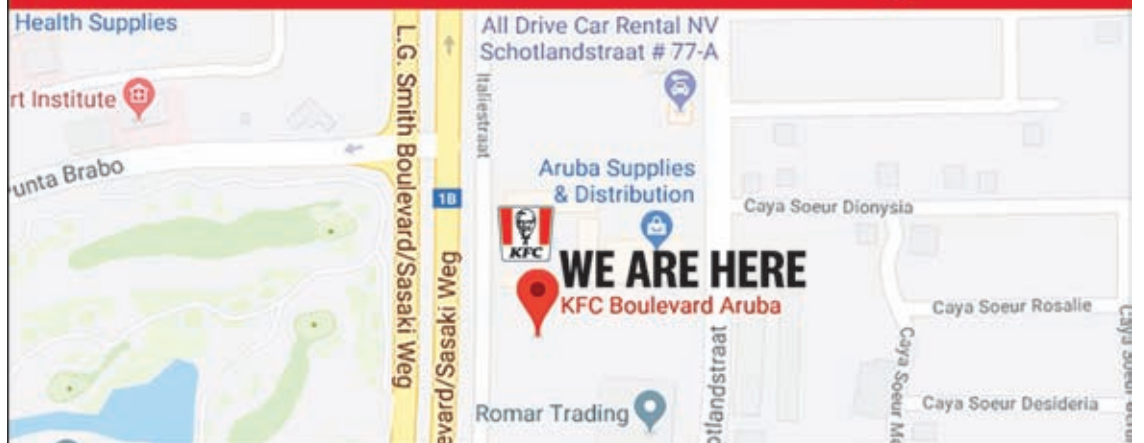
Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were: The warm inviting sun, the gracious treatment from everyone, the absolute feeling of safety everywhere/anytime, the unending selection of restaurants and the turtle hatching.



Continued on Page 16



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#### Why we speak 4 languages.

In the beginning of the 19th century the majority of our fore fathers were farmers and fishermen. A few also worked on ships as sailors and sailed between the ABC islands, the Caribbean and countries on the north coast of South America like Venezuela and Colombia. Some others were sent to Cuba and the Dominican Republic to cut sugar canes and some to Venezuela to work in the oil refinery that opened in 1914. My grandfather from my mothers' side went to work as a sailor and then captain on ships between Venezuela and Cuba transporting coffee, sugar canes and rum. All this connection with Spanish speaking countries in the region forced our people to speak Spanish. With the opening of the Oil Refinery here in Aruba many workers from English speaking islands came to work here and influenced our islanders to speak English and also due to the refinery being a US company all communication was in English. The education system was in Dutch and still is, so that's why our people learned to communicate in all the languages active on the island. Papiamentu language was created during the 17th century as a communication tool in a so diverse Caribbean trading market and it has influences from the languages Dutch, Portuguese, West African languages, Judaea Portuguese, Hebrew, English, French and Spanish. So Dutch is the instructional language, English, Spanish and Papiamentu as subject, but the majority speaks Papiamentu at home. Basically we all speak all the 4 languages on a daily basis. Spanish was also an instructional education language for some time in the 18th century.



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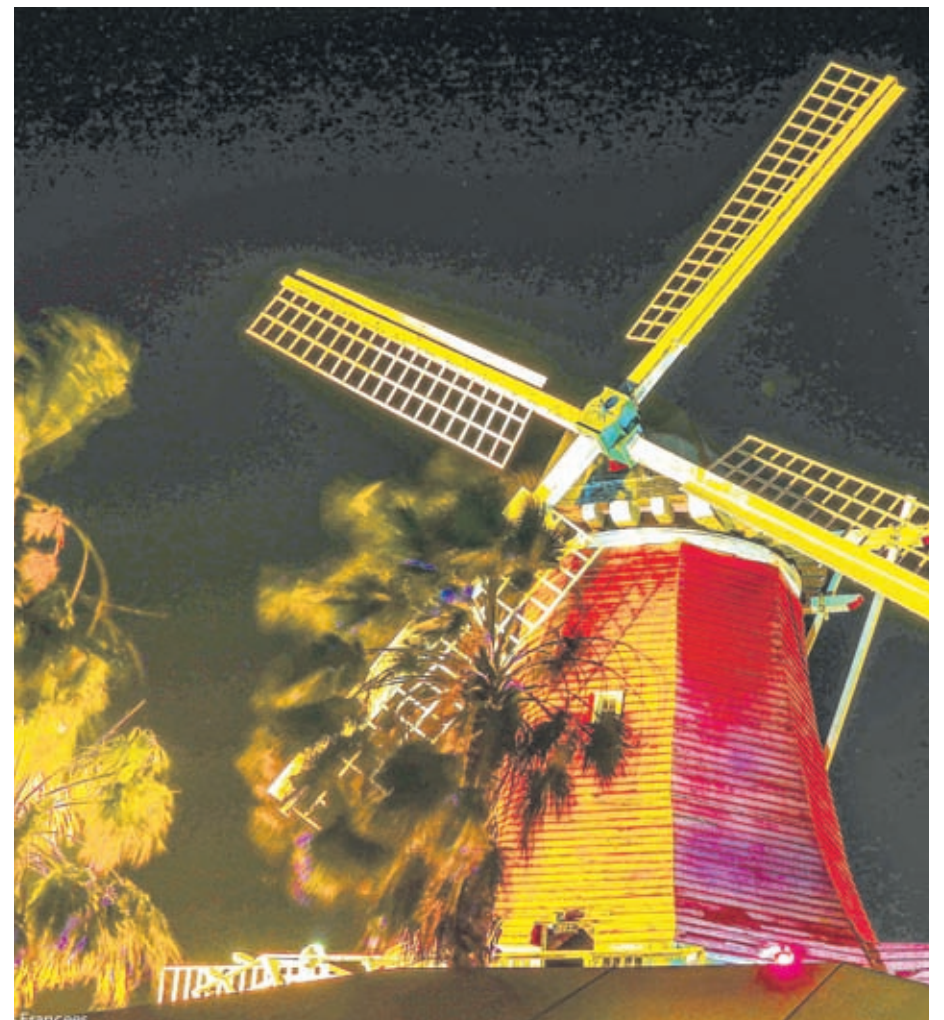


Fisherman's hut beach

This beach is a piece of art and this photo shows you the amazing Aruba colors and a wonderful beach. This is also the place to be for kite surfing and around 7am, this beach has some special natural colors that are hard to explain but you must see it for yourself.

The Windmill.

Yes, we have a Dutch Windmill in Aruba and that can be seen in the Palm Beach Area. It was built in 1804 in Friesland and brought to Aruba in 1960 as a tourist attraction. This windmill appeared in the first Aruba promotional campaign in 1970 and sure you must stop to take a photo of this iconic building. ☐



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Continued from Page 13

#### Meet the '29ers'

"Aruba has given our group, who we call the '29ers', the opportunity to meet each other every year and renew our friendship at Paradise Beach Villas. It has been like a second home where your friends become family. Our group comes from many destinations and we also communicate and visit each other during the years." The '29ers' started 5 years ago with 8 couples and

they decided they needed to choose one day during their stay to have a special activity. "Our first year we went on the Beach Pearl followed the next year with an all day tour of the island and dinner at Zeerover. Our third year we found us enjoying a private concert followed by a wine and cheese party at the home of a local family. Last year we had dinner at the Marriott Stellaris listening to an evening of singer Amy. In

honor of our 5th anniversary, as a group, one of our group members is sponsoring a dinner at Paradise Beach Villas and in addition one couple is celebrating their 30th consecutive visit to Aruba and their 60th wedding anniversary. When we hear welcome home we all feel we are home on "One Happy island". We love Aruba and look forward to visiting for many more years. □



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<p><b>Wednesday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Noche Latina</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Aruba Has Talent</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday at 8:00pm</b></p> <p><b>Circus Night</b></p>	<p><b>Every night at 7:30pm 8:30pm 9:30pm</b></p> <p><b>Liquid Firework Show</b></p>

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## Marcos at Matthew's: The Story of a Praised Waiter

**EAGLE BEACH** — Aruba's hospitality business got a boost from different cultures working together. At Matthew's restaurant, located at the ocean front of Casa del Mar Beach Resort, we meet waiter Marcos Garcia from Peru. "He is doing a fantastic job, recognized by his colleagues, the management and most important our guests. Marcos pushes through, gives his best and has love for the job", says Jonnique Phillips-Lake, General Manager of Matthew's. With his **five stars recognitions for consecutive years in TripAdvisor** the company wishes to congratulate Marcos and emphasize the importance of going the extra mile.

Matthew's restaurant has been consistent in its top quality since the start about twelve years ago. The unique characteristics of the establishment are the delicious food, its outstanding location – literally, within feet from the ocean, and the elegant yet comfortable beach-chic design.

The magical touch in this Xanadu is the service provided by Marcos. "I am passionate for service. I am completely myself here and love to interact with my guests. To give them the best experience is what I strive for."

He explains that it is fantastic to meet different cultures which is mind-opening. "Another great thing at Matthew's is that we have many guests from the time-share resort Casa del Mar that come every year. They have become family, we know each other and some even bring me gifts." He remembers a family from Arizona who saw him driving his car.

"They asked me why I have a spare tire on my car and I told them my brother broke the ring. Shortly after I received a new one from the States, they had it sent to me. That is overwhelming, amazing." It symbolizes the down-home feeling the guests have with the staff and vice versa.

### Best Memory

Marcos finds it essential that waiters realize their responsibility in making the guests' night unforgettable one. "They have one experience here and this is delicate. You may have enjoyed the best vacation ever, but if your last night is ruined by bad service that is what you will remember when back home. In this business there is the red line you can never cross. People pay for the table, the view, the food and the service. I want to give them the best memory." Just the other night he had a couple that got engaged, and Marcos did not let that moment pass without the attention they deserved. A dessert with candles and bubbles made the love birds feel extra special. "What happened after was an extra surprise as apparently after leaving the restaurant they crossed another couple in the parking lot and they recommended me. The couple from South Africa asked for me, but I did not know them and asked them how they heard my name. These things make my heart jump with joy."

His credo is; be yourself, never stop learning, and details are the key! "It is of course great to be recognized by my guests, in TripAdvisor, and by my employer. I am honored and I will continue my journey with the goal to gain more stars for Matthew's."



### About Matthew's

Matthew's offers a variety of activities that make it worth visiting. In addition to full breakfast, lunch and dinner menus, they offer all- you-can-eat spare ribs on Tuesdays, Karaoke on Wednesdays, Italian night on Thursdays and daily happy hours 3 x times in a day from noon – 1pm, 4-6pm featuring live music at the bar (Mondays and Tuesdays) and 9-10 pm. If you are a sports fan, three flat-screen TVs at the bar are always tuned in to the most exciting events.

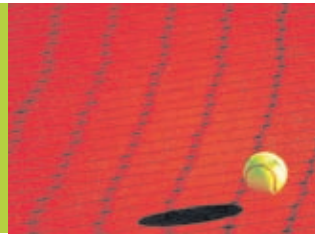
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# SPORTS



Jose Ramirez, right, lands a punch on Maurice Hooker in the second round of a boxing match, Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

## WBC's Ramirez gets TKO in super light-weight unification bout

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
AP Sports Writer

**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** — WBC champion Jose Ramirez saw an opening and quickly ended the world super lightweight unification bout against WBO champ Maurice Hooker. Ramirez delivered a series of brutal punches, pinning hometown favorite against the ropes in the sixth round before referee Mark Nelson stepped in and stopped the scheduled 12-round bout.

"He didn't know how hard I hit until the moment came," Ramirez said.

Two lefts to the head knocked Hooker into the ropes. The WBC champion kept punching until Nelson ended the fight. Hooker said he lost his focus for just a split second.

"It was a good stoppage. I was hurt," Hooker said. "I will be back. This isn't the end for me."

It was the third title defense for Ramirez, the 2012 Olympian who improved to 25-0 as a pro with his 17th knockout. His first two title defenses came at home in California.

Continued on Next Page

# Big Philly



## Realmuto's grand slam helps Phillies top Braves, avoid sweep

Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Aaron Nola throws a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Sunday, July 28, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press  
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**Continued from Previous Page**

"I came here with one mission, just to do my fight," Ramirez said. "Going back to my rhythm and nice jab, everything I did when I was an amateur."

Bob Arum, who promotes Ramirez, described the boxer as a "real American story" — the U.S.-born son of parents who entered the country illegally from Mexico but are now U.S. citizens. He trumpeted Ramirez's work for immigration rights and took a swipe at President Donald Trump.

"He's a standout person for immigration rights," Arum said of the boxer. "For what's happening in this country with the attitude of the guy in charge toward immigrants, it's an absolute disgrace."

Hooker dropped to 26-1. It was his third title defense, the first at home for the 29-year-old from Dallas known as "Mighty Mo."

"I'm still in shock a little bit," Ramirez said. "I didn't go after a vacant title. I went after a guy who is a world champion, a humble

champion."

Ramirez, who took the vacant WBC title in the 140-pound division in March 2018, had some blows in the opening round that sent Hooker stumbling into the ropes. He stayed up then, but Hooker did go down soon after that after taking a counterpunch and being unable to keep his balance when Ramirez was standing on his foot.

Both fighters landed solid blows in the second round, but Ramirez again had Hooker against the ropes. When the ref stepped in between them at the end of the round, Hooker had a smile on his face and was talking toward his opponent while going to the corner.

The third and fourth rounds both ended with the fighters exchanging punches and having to be separated by the referee when the bell rung.

"I feel like I beat myself," said Hooker, who felt like he was getting back into the fight before the ending flurry. "It's going to haunt me."

Before the main event, there was a memorial 10 count of the bell for 1984 Olympic gold medalist and four-division champion Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker and two fighters who died this week after bouts last weekend.

Whitaker died earlier this month after being hit by a car in Virginia. He was 55. Maxim Dadashev died Tuesday from bleeding in the brain, four days after the Russian went 11 grueling rounds in Maryland. Two days later, Hugo Santillan, a 23-year-old Argentinian, five days after collapsing following his super lightweight bout.

Both title fights on the undercard went the distance and ended with unanimous decisions. Tevin Farmer defended his IBF world super featherweight title for the fourth time in less than a year in 12 rounds against over mandatory challenger Guillaume Frenois. Tra-maine Williams beat Yenifel Vicente in a 10-rounder for the vacant USBA super bantamweight title.



Jose Ramirez celebrates a TKO against Maurice Hooker after six rounds of a boxing match, Saturday, July 27, 2019, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

Farmer took the vacant IBF title last August, and is 30-4-1 after the matchup of southpaws. Frenois, who is from France, lost for only the second time in 49 pro fights (46-2-1).

Williams, the 122-pound "Mighty Midget" from Connecticut, overcame a

couple of low blows that deducted points from Vicente. There was a lengthy pause after one such shot in the middle of the seventh round, but Williams rebounded with a flurry of punches and went on to improve to 19-0. Vicente dropped to 35-4-2. □





Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper, left, celebrates his home run with Rhys Hoskins, right, during the first inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Sunday, July 28, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

By AARON BRACY  
Associated Press  
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — No matter how bad things looked the previous two days, the Phillies still feel

## Philadelphia Phillies vs. Atlanta Braves

good about their playoff chances. A little power and Aaron Nola can do that.

J.T. Realmuto hit a grand slam, three other Phillies went deep and Philadelphia avoided a three-game sweep with a 9-4 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Sunday.

Nola (9-2) cruised through six scoreless innings before faltering in the seventh, when the Braves tagged Philadelphia's ace right-hander for four runs.

Bryce Harper, Rhys Hoskins and Adam Haseley also homered for Philadelphia, which pulled within 6½ games of the NL-East leading Braves. The Phillies lost the first two games by a combined score of 24-9.

"All our goals are still here," Realmuto said. "We feel like

we have a team here to do something special."

Manager Gabe Kapler is optimistic about the Phillies' chances at making the playoffs as a wild card.

"We're a club that has yet to come together all at once," he said. "I believe we have a strong run in us. I don't think clubs battling for those positions are better than us."

Philadelphia didn't pass the eye test in the first two games of the series; it didn't have Aaron Nola on the mound, either.

Dominating through six, Nola left after surrendering seven hits in 6 2/3 innings. He had eight strikeouts and three walks. Nola stayed in good form, moving to 3-1 with a 1.99 ERA over his last eight starts. The rest of Philadelphia's starters have a 6.36 ERA over the same stretch.

"Momentum is about the next day's starting pitcher," Kapler said. "That is who Aaron Nola is."

Ender Inciarte and Johan Camargo homered for Atlanta.

"We came out with a series win and we have another tough series (against Washington starting Monday)," Braves manager Brian Snitker said.

Harper staked Nola to a 1-0 lead with a two-out solo shot to right-center on the first pitch he saw in the first inning off Kevin Gausman (3-6).

Haseley made it 2-0 in the third with a drive to left-center, and Realmuto did the most damage with his grand slam in the fifth.

The Phillies loaded the bases with no outs, then Gausman struck out Harper and got Hoskins to pop out to second on a 3-0 pitch. But Realmuto picked up the two Phillies stars with his third career grand slam, drilling a 3-2, 96 mph fastball deep into the seats in left.

"We needed a big hit in that moment," Kapler said. Gausman allowed six runs on nine hits with eight strikeouts and a walk, falling to 0-4 with a 6.45 ERA in four career starts against Philadelphia. "He just wasn't hit-

ting spots with his fastball like he was (July 21 against Washington)," Snitker said.

Inciarte got Atlanta on the board with a three-run shot in the seventh, driving a 1-2, 90 mph fastball into the seats in right for his second homer in as many games.

"Made a mistake," Nola said. "Luckily, it was a good team win."

Camargo followed by pulling Nola's next pitch, an 86 mph changeup, over the wall in right to cut the margin to 6-4. The hit snapped a 0-for-16 skid for Camargo, who is filling in for injured Dansby Swanson (bruised right foot) at shortstop.

The Braves hit back-to-back homers for the 11th time this season to tie a franchise record.

### STILL STREAKING

Ronald Acuña Jr. extended his major league-leading on-base streak to 32 consecutive games with a seventh-inning single off Nola.

### DAY DOMINANCE

Philadelphia improved to 23-13 during day games, including 12-6 on Sundays. The Phillies are 32-37 at night.

### TRAINER'S ROOM

Phillies: SS Jean Segura left the game with two outs in the seventh with a bruised right shin after Acuña slid into him while stealing second. Acuña's head slammed into Segura on a safe headfirst slide. Kapler said he has "no long-term concerns" about the injury. Braves: Acuña finished the top of the inning but was replaced in right field in the bottom half due to neck stiffness. Acuña said afterward that his neck was feeling better and he expects to be in the lineup Monday at Washington.

### UP NEXT

Braves: Open a three-game series at Washington on Monday night. Atlanta LHP Dallas Keuchel (3-3, 3.50) opposes Nationals LHP Patrick Corbin (8-5, 3.25).

Phillies: After an off day, Phillies LHP Drew Smyly (1-5, 7.69) faces San Francisco RHP Tyler Beede (3-4, 4.85) on Tuesday night in the first contest of a three-game set. □

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# A star is born at the Tour: 22-year-old champion Egan Bernal

By JOHN LEICESTER  
SAMUEL PETREQUIN  
AP Sports Writers

PARIS (AP) — The skies over Paris were yellow, ignited by a glorious golden sunset. The partying fans' shirts were yellow, Colombians making themselves at home on the Champs-Elysees.

But the yellow that counted most was the iconic jersey that fit so snugly on the slim shoulders of Egan Bernal.

His crowning Sunday as the Tour de France's youngest post-World War II champion, and its first from South America, heralded the birth of a new supernova in the cycling universe.

Winning a Tour for the ages at the unusually young age of 22 immediately prompted the question: How many more might he win?

Get this: He's younger than the Tour's greatest champions — five-time winners Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain — all were when they were first crowned. Pity those in the peloton who also hope to win future editions of cycling's greatest race: They could be in for quite a wait. "I am the most happy guy in the world. I just won the Tour de France, and, yeah, I can't believe it," Bernal said, looking bemused on the podium in the race winner's jersey and silhouetted by the splendid sunset.

The slightly built Colombian with a killer instinct on the road proved to be the strongest of the 176 strong men who roared off from the start in Brussels, Belgium, on July 6 on their 3,366-kilometer (2,092-mile) odyssey that delivered the most absorbing, drama-packed Tour in decades and confirmation that the prodigy Bernal is the real deal. Riding a yellow bike, and cheered by Colombian fans who were partying even before he rattled up the cobblestones of the Champs-Elysees, Bernal crossed the line with his teammate Geraint Thomas, the 2018 champion who this year finished second. Steven Kruijswijk completed what Tour organizers said was the tightest podium in



Colombia's Egan Bernal stands on the podium after winning the 2019 Tour de France cycling race in Paris, France, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press

the 116-year history of the race, with just 1 minute, 31 seconds separating first and third places after three weeks of racing.

The 21st and final stage was won in a sprint finish on the famous avenue by Australian Caleb Ewan, the dominant sprinter of his first Tour with three stage wins. Keeping with race tradition on its final day, the 155 riders who survived the Tour rode at a pedestrian pace and in a joyful atmosphere before hitting the Champs-Elysees. Bernal chatted with French rival Julian Alaphilippe and raised a glass of champagne as he rode. At the finish, Bernal fell into the arms of his family.

"I cannot believe it. It's just incredible. I am sorry. I have no words," he said through a translator. "I still can't understand what is happening to me."

Tearful Colombians celebrated their new hero.

"When I saw that he won, I said, 'I need to go with my

music to support him,'" said clarinet-playing Colombian fan Sebastian Cortes, who traveled from Strasbourg in eastern France for the celebration.

But millions of French fans who had lined the roads through east, central and southern France, and up into the thinning air of the Pyrenees and Alps, were ruling a bitter-sweet Tour.

First, their hearts soared with fabulous racing from French riders Alaphilippe, who held the iconic yellow jersey for 14 days, and Thibaut Pinot, who won on the first of seven 2,000-meter-plus (6,500-feet) peaks scaled by the highest Tour in history.

But joy turned to sorrow when Alaphilippe and Pinot's prospects of becoming France's first winner since Hinault in 1985 were cruelly dashed just two days before the grand finale in Paris, on an epic Stage 19 where Mother Nature became a party-pooing

guest. An almighty dump of torrential rain and hail severed the Tour route just as Bernal was succeeding in ripping the race lead off Alaphilippe, who'd clung to it like a kid with a favorite toy.

"Julian Alaphilippe made us dream," said Celestin Simon, a Parisian who cheered his hero on the Champs-Elysees in a pointy hat of French red, white and blue. "Unfortunately, there's no victory at the end."

Alaphilippe, more than anyone, first ignited and then stoked what will long be remembered as a Tour of fireworks. With his goatee beard and can't-catch-me attacks that rivals couldn't match, Alaphilippe embodied "panache," the old-school class so cherished by Tour fans.

Alaphilippe's enterprise first put him in yellow in Champagne country on Stage 3 and then, after he lost the lead on Stage 6, got him

the jersey back on Stage 8, which he held through the Pyrenees and into the Alps. And it was there that Bernal, raised at altitude in Colombia and at home in thinner air, struck.

Bernal flew up the Tour's highest climb, the dizzying Iseran pass at 2,770 meters (9,088-feet) above sea level, demolishing what remained of Alaphilippe's lead on Stage 19 and building a sizeable one of his own.

The watch was then stopped, with Bernal way ahead, when the hailstorm suddenly coated the route with ice, amid fears that riders on tires barely wider than their thumbs could skid off into the rock- and ravine-scarred Alpine décor. Compounding the misery for France, Pinot abandoned the race in tears, hobbled by a left-thigh muscle tear.

And that was that. The Tour that had been careening to a rock 'n' roll finish instead had the plug pulled on it. Landslides also truncated the last Alpine Stage 20, which still proved too long for the by-now exhausted Alaphilippe, who slipped off the podium entirely, despite getting words of encouragement in a call the previous night from French President Emmanuel Macron.

Thomas used the last Alpine climb to secure the runner-up spot in Paris, giving the Ineos team a podium 1-2 with Bernal. Third-placed Kruijswijk, a Dutch Mr. Steady, pulled off the feat of being wholly unremarkable during the three weeks, while Alaphilippe, Pinot and Bernal and others rocked.

Quite remarkably, none of the top four riders won a stage. Alaphilippe, in fifth, won two.

"Honestly, I prefer having won two stages and 14 days in yellow than doing nothing and finishing third," Alaphilippe said Sunday.

So instead of a red-white-and-blue celebration, Paris instead got painted in Colombian red, blue and yellow.

Lots and lots of yellow. □



# Jin Young Ko wins at Evian for 2nd major title of season

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**

AP Sports Writer

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France

(AP) — Jin Young Ko took advantage of a friend's bad luck to win her second major title of the season on Sunday, and reclaimed No. 1 spot in the women's world golf rankings.

Ko fired a 4-under 67 in the rain-swept final round to win the Evian Championship by two shots with a 15-under total of 269.

Winner of the season's first major, the ANA Inspiration in April, Ko closed out the victory after playing partner, longtime leader and good friend Hyo Joo Kim lost control of the tournament with a triple bogey at the par-3 14th.

Ko took the two-shot lead she was given, and added a birdie at the par-4 No. 17, to hold off strong finishes by American rookie Jennifer Kupcho (66) and Shanshan Feng (68).

The 24-year-old South Korean played the par-5 18th with a two-shot cushion and no drama. Kim (73) made a birdie to join a three-way tie for second with Kupcho and Feng.

Ko said her play was "a little perfect," after getting the silver trophy presented by ski great Lindsey Vonn.

Ko acknowledged feeling sad for Kim, the 2014 Evian



South Korea's Ko Jin-young poses for photographers with the trophy after winning the Evian Championship women's golf tournament in Evian, eastern France, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press

champion whose challenge was undone after a tee shot at No. 14 plugged beneath the front face of a green-side bunker. Kim's first salvage attempt rolled back from the grass into a deep footprint in the sand. Kim then three-putted.

"The lie was so bad. It was really unlucky for Hyo Joo," said Ko.

The winner's check of \$615,000 lifted Ko atop the LPGA money list with almost \$2 million this season.

A second career major for Ko, the 2018 LPGA Rookie of the Year, also means she goes back to No. 1 in the

world rankings above her other playing partner, Sung Hyun Park.

Park (75) was let down by her putting in falling to a tie for sixth at 10 under.

A final round played in steady rain ended in fading light at 7:35 p.m. local time (1735 GMT). The start was delayed by two hours to prepare the Evian Resort Golf Club course after overnight downpours.

In her second major as a professional, the 22-year-old Kupcho impressed by shooting a bogey-free, lowest round of the day in persistent rain and cooling

winds.

"It's crazy. It's exciting to see that I can compete," said the Colorado native, untroubled by the dreary weather. "I just say, 'Well everyone's playing in it, so we're going to be out here.'"

Kupcho was the first woman to win at Augusta National, in the inaugural Women's Amateur in April, and played apparently nerveless golf until her final 4-foot putt. She made it to secure a check for \$289,000.

"Standing over this putt on 18 I was kind of freaking out," said Kupcho, who

was an NCAA champion at Wake Forest. "I had to take a couple of deep breaths as I was lining it up."

Kupcho had begun the day seven shots behind Kim, and three behind Ko. Though Park seemed favored, three shots ahead of Ko, she opened with two bogeys and struggled to find rhythm.

Park ended with another bogey 6 at the 18th, playing her approach into flower beds beside the green, and hacking out across the putting surface into more thick grass.

The Jutanugarn sisters from Thailand both shot 68 to secure top-10 finishes.

Ariya Jutanugarn made eagle-3 on the 18th to finish alone in fifth place on 11 under, and elder sister Moriya tied for sixth with Park.

Ko's victory ended a streak of 10 different players winning the previous 10 women's majors.

The next starts Thursday, when the Women's British Open begins at Woburn, England. It's the first time since 1960 that two women's majors have been played in back-to-back weeks. On Sunday morning, Ko canceled her scheduled evening flight for England. It was among many good moves she made at Evian. □

# Relay silver medal is victory for cancer survivor Adrian

By **BETH HARRIS**

AP Sports Writer

GWANGJU, South Korea

(AP) — With Britain closing in, Nathan Adrian sprinted furiously to the wall. He just couldn't get there fast enough.

The American anchor got edged by Britain's Duncan Scott in the 4x100-meter medley relay on the final night of the world swimming championships Sunday.

Still, the silver medal was a victory for Adrian, competing seven months after being diagnosed with testicular cancer.

"I don't want to come off like a sore loser," he said, "but I'm truthfully very grateful just to be here."



United States Nathan Adrian is consoled by a teammate after their second place finish in the men's 4x100m medley relay final at the World Swimming Championships in Gwangju, South Korea, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press

The 30-year-old Californian went public with his diagnosis in an effort to spread awareness. He underwent

two surgeries and then began the process of regaining weight and muscle.

Adrian said he's been in

touch online with others who endured the same things he did at the same time "and they're doing chemo right now," he said. He underwent a scan a week before joining the U.S. team, and if the results hadn't been good, he wouldn't have made the trip.

"Literally, they could have been like, 'Hey, we found a node on your lung, you need to be in chemo next Tuesday,'" he said. "I get a little emotional even thinking about it."

Earlier, Adrian anchored the U.S. to gold in the 4x100 freestyle relay with the Russia breathing down his neck on the last lap.

Sunday night, it was Britain's

turn to apply the pressure.

Caeleb Dressel hauled the Americans from fourth to first on his butterfly leg before turning it over to Adrian. "That last 15 meters, it's tough," Adrian said. "I was trying to be strong, I was trying to hold on, but this time I couldn't do it."

Adrian was chosen as one of the U.S. swimmers to accept the FINA trophy awarded to the best team at the worlds. He and three of his teammates stood on the top step of the podium, a view he'd like to have next year at the Tokyo Olympics.

"There's a time to get silver in relays and it's at a world championships, that's for sure," he said. □



# Rare sight in F1 as both Mercedes struggle at German GP

**HOCKENHEIM, Germany (AP)** — On what was supposed to be a day of celebration, the rarest of sights in Formula One saw both Mercedes drivers struggling badly at Sunday's dramatic German Grand Prix.

World champion Lewis Hamilton crossed the line in 11th — despite starting from pole position — and Valtteri Bottas crashed chasing a podium finish.

"What a crazy race. This has been one of the most difficult races we've had as a team for a long time," Hamilton said. "I'm just glad it's over."

Hamilton was later promoted to ninth place and earned two points after stewards handed post-race time penalties to Alfa Romeo drivers Kimi Raikkonen and Antonio Giovinazzi — demoting them from seventh and eighth to 12th and 13th respectively — for an issue relating to their clutches at the start of the race.

Still, what a way for Mercedes to celebrate 125 years in motorsport and 200 F1 races.

"This was our Armageddon weekend," the team's head of motorsport Toto Wolff said with Hamilton in 11th. "This one hurts us to the core: it was a disastrous result today ... You add incidents, crashing out, tricky conditions, the wrong calls and in the end you're left with zero points."



Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland steers his car during the German Formula One Grand Prix at the Hockenheimring racetrack in Hockenheim, Germany, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press

For the second straight year, the skies opened up and drenched the Hockenheimring circuit on race day. This time Hamilton struggled, however, having won in similar conditions and despite starting from 14th on the grid in 2018.

"I thought I had the race under control," Hamilton said. "But we took a risk going out on slick (tires) and the race fell apart from there." A rare mistake from Hamilton also contributed to a miserable day at the Mercedes motorhome, where celebratory smiles turned to frowns and stern faces. The five-time F1 champion with 80 career wins took treacherous Turn 16 too

wide and damaged his car's front wing clipping the barriers.

"It was like ice out there," the British driver said. "I made a mistake and paid the price."

Hamilton was not helped by his usually slick team, either.

When he came in for repairs, mechanics were rushing around in a state of panic. One even sprinted to get a tire, grabbed it and sprinted back like he was running in a relay race and the heavy tire was a baton needing to be passed quickly.

Pandemonium at Mercedes? This team is the winner of every drivers' and

constructors' championship since 2014.

"We were not prepared when (Hamilton) came in and made the wrong calls afterward," Wolff said. "Valtteri crashed like many other drivers today, which made a bad day even worse for us. Our 200th race in F1 has been the most difficult day we've had in a long time." Mercedes needs a very strong response from Bottas in Hungary next weekend. He crashed while trying to overtake the considerably slower Racing Point car of unheralded driver Lance Stroll, not the Ferrari of Sebastian Vettel or the Red Bull of race winner Max Verstappen.

For Bottas, it might prove a turning point in his fragile Mercedes career. The Finnish driver, who turns 30 next month, is trying to earn another one-year deal for 2020, but Wolff has yet to choose between him and 22-year-old Frenchman Esteban Ocon.

Bottas may not wish to watch a replay of decision-maker Wolff's stunned disappointment on seeing the crash. Wolff lurched forward in his seat and just restrained himself from banging down his fist in sheer frustration.

One thing Bottas has always had is honest self-appraisal and he did not hide. "I'm very disappointed ... I made a mistake which lost us a lot of points," Bottas said. "It's a shame because today was a good opportunity for me to make up some points to Lewis and it was my own fault."

Bottas remains in second place overall, 41 points behind championship leader Hamilton. But after declaring himself as a title contender at the start of the season, and backing that up with two wins in the first four races, Bottas has not won since. Stroll was driving in the third-slowest F1 car, which won't reassure Wolff much. "I had a good shot to get a podium and I was pushing hard to get past," Bottas said. "Then I suddenly lost the rear and just went off." □

# Sri Lanka beats Bangladesh in 2nd ODI to win series

Associated Press

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)** — Avishka Fernando scored 82 off 75 balls as Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by seven wickets to take an insurmountable 2-0 lead in the three-match ODI series on Sunday.

It was Sri Lanka's first bilateral series win at home since November 2015 against the West Indies.

Bangladesh scored 238-8 after captain Tamim Iqbal chose to bat first. Mushfiqur Rahim scored an unbeaten 98 off 110 deliveries.

Sri Lanka reached 242-3 in

the 45th over with 32 deliveries to spare. Angelo Mathews made 52 not out and Kusal Mendis hit an unbeaten 41. Bangladesh was 26-0 in the sixth over before opening batsman Soumya Sarkar (11) was trapped lbw to seam bowler Nuwan Pradeep. Iqbal departed for 19, bowled by seamer Isuru Idana.

Mohammad Mithun (12), Mahmudullah (6), Sabbir Rahman (11) and Mosaddek Hossain (13) departed quickly to leave Bangladesh struggling at 117-6. Rahim and Mehedy Hasan

(43) combined for a 84-run stand for the seventh wicket to take Bangladesh to a respectable score.

Spinner Akila Dhananjaya took 2-39 in his 10 overs.

Sri Lanka made a strong start in their reply with openers Fernando and captain Dimuth Karunaratne sharing a 71-run stand before Karunaratne was bowled by spinner Hasan for 15.

Fernando hit two sixes and nine fours in his innings before being caught by Iqbal off the bowling of Mustafizur Rahman, who finished with 2-50 off eight overs. □



Bangladeshi captain Tamim Iqbal congratulates Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews and Kusal Mendis following their loss in the second one-day international cricket match in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Sunday, July 28, 2019.

Associated Press



# Girls are bearing the brunt of a rise in U.S. cyberbullying

By SALLY HO

Associated Press

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Rachel Whalen remembers feeling gutted in high school when a former friend would mock her online postings, threaten to unfollow or unfriend her on social media and post inside jokes about her to others online.

The cyberbullying was so distressing that Whalen said she contemplated suicide. Once she got help, she decided to limit her time on social media. It helps to take a break from it for perspective, said Whalen, now a 19-year-old college student in Utah.

There's a rise in cyberbullying nationwide, with three times as many girls reporting being harassed online or by text message than boys, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

The U.S. Department of Education's research and data arm this month released its latest survey, which shows an uptick in online abuse, though the overall number of students who report being bullied stayed the same.

"There's just some pressure in that competitive atmo-



In this Monday, July 22, 2019 photo, Rachel Whalen looks at her phone at her home in Draper, Utah.

Associated Press

sphere that is all about attention," Whalen said. "This social media acceptance — it just makes sense to me that it's more predominant amongst girls."

Many school systems that once had a hands-off approach to dealing with off-campus student behavior are now making cyberbullying rules, outlining punishments such as suspension or expulsion, according to Bryan Joffe, director of education and youth development at AASA, a nation-

al school superintendents association.

That change partly came along with broader cyberbullying laws, which have been adopted in states like Texas and California in recent years.

The survey showed about 20%, or one in five students, reported being bullied, ranging from rumors or being excluded to threats and physical attacks in the 2016-17 school year. That's unchanged from the previous survey done in 2014-15.

But in that two-year span, cyberbullying reports increased significantly, from 11.5% to 15.3%.

Broken down by gender, 21% of girls in middle and high school reported being bullied online or by text message in the 2016-17 school year, compared with less than 7% of boys. That's up from the previous survey in 2014-15, the first time cyberbullying data was collected this specifically. Back then, about 16% of girls between 12 and 18

said they were bullied online, compared with 6% of boys.

The survey does not address who the aggressors are, though girls were more likely to note that their bullies were perceived to have the ability to influence others.

Lauren Paul, founder of the Kind Campaign, said 90% of the stories she hears while working in schools are of girls bullied by other girls. The California-based nonprofit launched a decade ago to focus on "girl against girl" bullying through free educational programming that reaches about 300 schools a year.

Paul recalls meeting one girl who was obsessive about her social media accounts because a group of girls excluded her if she did not get enough likes or follows in any given week. She went so far as to painstakingly create fake profiles just to meet her quota.

"Most of the time — if not almost all the time — it's about what's going on with other girls," Paul said. "It's this longing to be accepted by their female peers specifically and feeling broken if they don't." □

# British cyber expert to be sentenced for creating malware



This Monday, May 15, 2017, file photo shows Marcus Hutchins, a British cybersecurity expert during an interview in Ilfracombe, England.

Associated Press

By IVAN MORENO

Associated Press

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — Just as Marcus Hutchins was hailed as a hero for helping stop a worldwide computer virus in May 2017, his criminal past as a malware devel-

oper was about to catch up to him.

FBI agents had been investigating the 25-year-old British cybersecurity wunderkind for years. Less than two months after his claim to fame, they arrested him

and accused him of creating malware to steal banking passwords — charges for which he will be sentenced Friday.

"It is this darker side of Hutchins' life that brings him before the Court for sentencing in this case," prosecutors said in a filing ahead of his sentencing hearing in federal court in Milwaukee. The filing makes no sentencing recommendation, only that it "should be sufficient, though not greater than necessary." Prosecutors note Hutchins accepted responsibility for his actions during a plea deal in April, and they also gave him credit for his role in finding a "kill switch" to the WannaCry virus. He faces up to 10 years in prison.

Hutchins no longer devel-

ops malware attacks and works to stop them, but that does not diminish the seriousness of what he did, prosecutors said. While his case was pending, prosecutors barred Hutchins from returning home, so he worked as a cybersecurity consultant in California.

"Like a man who spent years robbing banks, and then one day came to realize that was wrong, and even worked to design better security systems, he deserves credit for his epiphany. But he still bears responsibility for what he did," prosecutors said.

Hutchins, who was arrested in Las Vegas on Aug. 2, 2017 as he was about to board a flight to England, also faces deportation. Presentencing documents from Hutchins' attorneys

and the U.S. Probation Office are sealed.

Hutchins was indicted on 10 charges for developing two pieces of malware and lying to the FBI. Prosecutors said Hutchins conspired to distribute the malware — UPAS Kit and Kronos — from 2012 to 2015 and that he sold Kronos to someone in Wisconsin. He also "personally delivered" the software to someone in California, prosecutors said. Hutchins initially pleaded not guilty to all charges and was scheduled to go on trial this month. As part of the plea deal, Hutchins pleaded guilty to two charges for creating Kronos — and an updated version of UPAS — and conspiring to distribute it. In exchange, prosecutors dismissed the other eight charges. □



# US economy slowed to 2.1% growth rate in second quarter

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. economy slowed sharply in the April-June quarter even as consumers stepped up their spending. The gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and services, grew at a 2.1% annual rate last quarter, down from a 3.1% gain in the first quarter, the Commerce Department estimated Friday.

But consumer spending, which drives about 70% of economic activity, accelerated to a sizzling 4.3% growth rate after a lackluster 1.1% annual gain in the January-March quarter, boosted in particular by auto sales. The resurgent strength in household spending was offset by a widening of the trade deficit and slower business inventory rebuilding.

Economists also noted that business capital investment fell in the April-June quarter for the first time in three years. That weakness likely reflects some reluctance by businesses to commit to projects because of uncertainty surrounding President Donald Trump's trade war with China.

Indeed, most analysts think the U.S. economy could slow through the rest of the year, reflecting global weakness and the trade war between the world's two largest economies.

This week, the International Monetary Fund downgraded its outlook for the world economy because of the trade conflict. China's own growth sank last quarter to its lowest level in at least 26 years after Trump raised his tariffs on Chinese imports to pressure Beijing over the tactics it's using to challenge U.S. technological dominance. Economists say China's slowdown might extend into next year, which would have global repercussions because many countries feed raw materials to Chinese factories.

Europe, too, is weakening in the face of global trade tensions — a concern that led the European Central



In this Wednesday, July 24, 2019 photo, the container ship Seaboard Atlantic is shown docked at PortMiami in Miami.

Associated Press

Bank to signal that more economic stimulus could be coming soon.

The global weakness is a key reason why the Federal Reserve is widely expected to cut interest rates next week for the first time in more than a decade and to signal that it may further ease credit in the months ahead.

Sung Won Sohn, a business economist at Loyola Marymount University in California, noted the disparity between solid U.S. consumer spending and tepid corporate investment.

"Consumers and businesses are going their separate ways," Sohn said. "If the pattern continues, it is not a good sign for the economy because there would be fewer jobs. For this reason, the Federal Reserve will go ahead with an interest-rate cut next week."

Larry Kudlow, head of the president's National Economic Council, blamed last year's four rate increases by the Fed, rather than Trump's trade policies, for last quarter's drop in business investment.

"I don't think the trade factor is nearly as important as the monetary factor," Kudlow said in a CNBC interview Friday. "I am hoping that monetary policy makes the shift that investors are expecting."

Trump has been pressuring

the Fed through a series of tweets to start cutting rates. Economists expect a quarter-point reduction in the federal funds rate, which influences many consumer and business loan rates, when the central bank meets next week.

Responding to Friday's GDP report, Trump tweeted, "Q2 Up 2.1%. Not bad considering we have the very heavy weight of the Federal Reserve anchor wrapped around our neck. Almost no inflation. USA is set to Zoom!"

Later, speaking to reporters in the Oval Office about the Fed, Trump said, "They acted too soon and too violently" in raising rates nine times since late 2015. Trump also complained about the Fed's efforts to lower its bond holdings, saying that was driving up rates as well. Trump said without the Fed's tightening moves, growth would have been 4.5% in the second quarter instead of 2.1% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which along with other stock gauges has been setting record highs, would be 5,000 to 10,000 points higher.

"I am not a fan," Trump said of Fed Chairman Jerome Powell.

Asked if he felt the dollar was too high against other currencies, making it harder to export U.S. products,

Trump said a strong dollar "is a beautiful thing in a way but it makes it very hard to compete."

Kudlow told reporters earlier Friday that the administration had a White House meeting last week and ruled out intervening in currency markets to weaken the dollar. But in his comments with reporters, Trump seemed to still leave the door open to such a move which could violate commitments the United States has made with other major economies not to manipulate currencies to gain trade advantages.

On Friday, besides issuing its first of three estimates of growth in the April-June quarter, the government reported that by one measure, the economy grew more slowly in 2018 than it had previously estimated. As part of its annual revisions to GDP, the government downgraded its estimate for 2018 growth from 3% to 2.5%.

Trump had frequently boasted of the now-downgraded 3% fourth-quarter-over-fourth-quarter GDP figure for 2018 as evidence that his policies have invigorated the economy.

For the January-March quarter, a narrower trade deficit and a surge in business restocking had contributed 1.3 percentage points to the 3.1% annual

gain. But economists had cautioned that this strength was likely to be temporary. For the second half of this year, economists say they think GDP will grow at a modest annual rate of 2% or slightly lower, leading to growth for the full year of around 2.5%.

That would be a disappointment to the Trump administration which is forecasting that Trump's economic policies of tax cuts, deregulation and tougher trade enforcement will lift the U.S. economy to sustained gains in coming years of 3% or better. Trump often cites the economy's performance at his campaign rallies, saying his policies have lifted the economy out of a decade-long slowdown he blames on the wrongheaded policies pursued by the Obama administration.

While economists see the tax cut Trump pushed through Congress in late 2017 as a key factor boosting growth last year, they expect the impact of those cuts to fade this year. Most think it would leave the economy growing close to the annual average of 2.3% that has prevailed since this expansion began in June 2009. The recovery this month became the longest in U.S. history, one month longer than the 10-year expansion of the 1990s. Still, the 2.3% average annual growth rate is the weakest for any recovery in the post-World War II period. □



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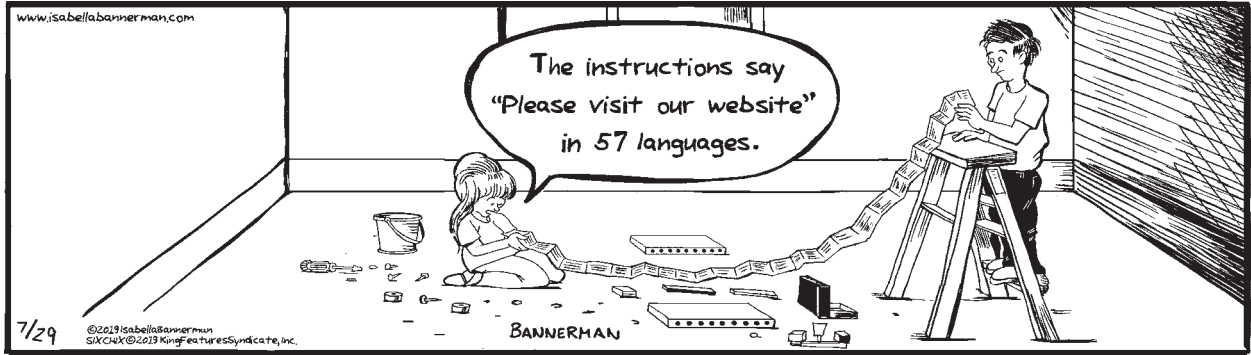
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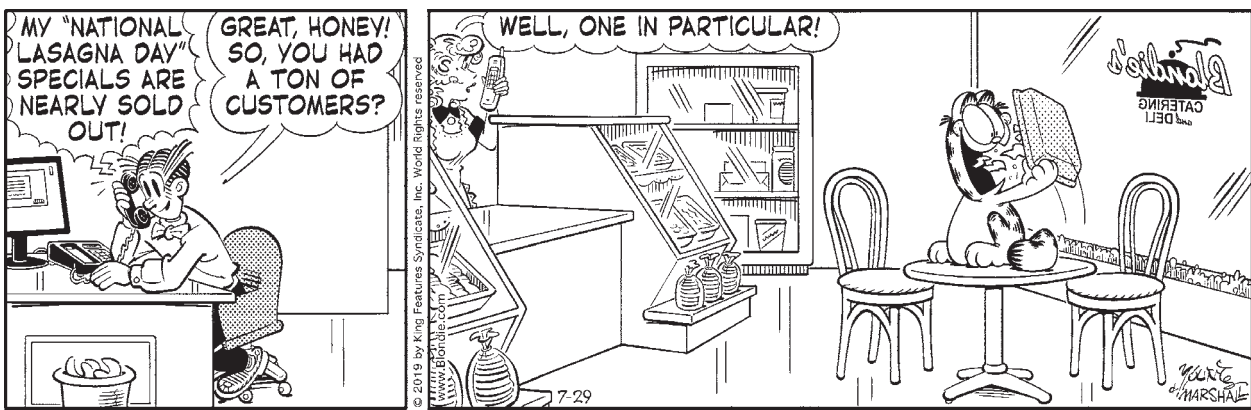
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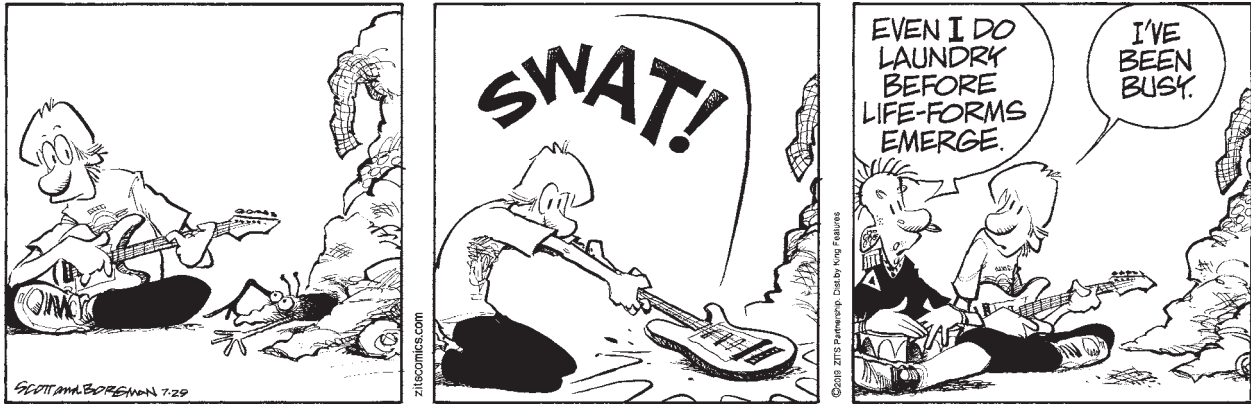
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				6			2	
6				7	3	9		
	5	3			4	1		
	7	5	6		9			
1	6			3			7	9
			7		5	6	4	
		8	9			2	6	
		6	1	8				7
	1			4				

Difficulty Level ★ 7/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	5	6	8	2	7	9	3	4
8	4	3	5	9	6	1	2	7
9	2	7	4	3	1	8	6	5
6	3	1	7	4	5	2	9	8
4	9	2	3	1	8	5	7	6
5	7	8	2	6	9	4	1	3
2	8	9	6	7	4	3	5	1
7	1	5	9	8	3	6	4	2
3	6	4	1	5	2	7	8	9

ACROSS

- 1 Brewed beverage
- 4 Whines
- 9 Plus
- 13 Be flexible
- 14 Sound portion of a telecast
- 15 Thin
- 16 Picnic spoilers
- 17 Impasse
- 19 Hardwood tree
- 20 \_\_ song; TV show opener
- 21 Cranky
- 22 Church volunteer
- 24 Evergreen tree
- 25 Keeps a cooking turkey moist
- 27 "The Sunflower State"
- 30 Foreign
- 31 Blackboard writer's need
- 33 Laceration
- 35 Talon
- 36 "Never the twain \_\_ meet"
- 37 The Bee Gees or Nirvana
- 38 Towel embroidery
- 39 Window covering
- 40 Injections
- 41 Engraver
- 43 Steals
- 44 Boy
- 45 Reduce greatly
- 46 Up and about
- 49 Portugal's neighbor
- 51 Two-kind link
- 54 Covering
- 56 Border on
- 57 Breathing organ
- 58 Dirtiness
- 59 Critical; urgent
- 60 Quiche ingredients
- 61 Magnificent
- 62 Mr. Leno

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14				15			
16				17				18			
19			20					21			
	22	23					24				
25	26					27		28	29		
30				31	32			33	34		
35			36					37			
38			39					40			
	41	42					43				
		44				45					
46	47	48			49	50			51	52	53
54				55				56			
57				58				59			
60				61				62			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/29/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

FRAY	OMAHA	SRAS
GALE	SEPAL	PINE
HITS	PERMANENCE	
IDO	ARTS	EAGER
	GENES	WAR
STEADY	VERSUS	
PATSY	ALIAS	NOV
ACHY	SLIER	BABE
TIE	FILED	LATER
TREATY	PALTRY	
	VIS	VODKA
STEEL	PIES	CBS
TRANSCRIPT	WHOA	
AUST	OUTER	HELM
BETS	TEARY	ODDS

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7/29/19

DOWN

- 1 Certain bills
- 2 Fan
- 3 Want \_\_; newspaper section
- 4 Prepares spuds
- 5 Space modifier
- 6 Eden resident
- 7 School night bedtime
- 8 Ground cover
- 9 Modifies
- 10 Flowery rings
- 11 \_\_ and pepper
- 12 "You \_\_ live once!"
- 13 Lamb's cry
- 18 Smell bad
- 20 "Later!"
- 23 One-dish meal
- 24 Collapse
- 25 Johann Sebastian \_\_
- 26 TV's "Kate & \_\_"
- 27 Curly cabbage
- 28 Fear of heights
- 29 Multi-room hotel booking
- 31 Blacken
- 32 "We \_\_ It All"; Waylon Jennings song
- 34 Fling
- 36 Get rid of

- 37 " \_\_ Land Is Your Land"
- 39 Dangerous fish
- 40 Kind of dive
- 42 Sticks to
- 43 Negligible; minor
- 45 Yuletide visitor
- 46 Up to the task
- 47 Punch
- 48 Orange drink
- 49 Recipe verb
- 50 Stack
- 52 Intense rage
- 53 Had a bite
- 55 Alphabet trio
- 56 Part of speech: abbr.



# Slow lobster season so far in Maine, but price is steady

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)** — It's been a slow lobster season so far in Maine, but the lack of crustaceans isn't translating into high prices for consumers, and fishermen are still hopeful for a bump in catch this summer. The harvest of the valuable bottom dwellers in America's biggest lobstering state is usually in full swing by July, but fishermen say they haven't caught much this month. The season tends to pick up after many lobsters shed their shells and reach legal size, and that hasn't happened yet, fishermen said. The slow season hasn't caused prices to budge: Consumers are paying about the same for live lobsters as at this time last year, when the crustacean catch was more plentiful earlier in the season. Wholesale prices are also slightly behind where they were a year ago. Lobsters are still readily available to consumers, and numerous factors impact the prices they pay, including international demand and the size of the harvest elsewhere. The season so far is similar to the lobster hauls veteran fishermen saw in the 1980s and '90s, when the boom in catch typically came later, said Steve Train, a lobsterman based in Long Island, Maine. It's frustrating for

those who are used to the big, early catches of the modern era, he said. "We've got a whole generation where they're used to making money by now. And those of us who have seen it don't like it," Train said. "Anything is possible, but it's hard to make up six weeks of income." One reason for the slow start could be the long, cold spring. Warm weather tends to bring an early shed and thus higher catches, but that has not been the case this year. The cooler year is happening amid a long-term trend in the Gulf of Maine of warming. This year's slow start also means an expected bait shortage hasn't caused much worry. Federal regulators are reducing the amount of herring that fishermen are allowed to catch. That could make it more difficult — and more expensive — for fishermen to load traps. The slow start has allowed fishermen to hold on to resources until it makes sense to use them, said Patrice McCarron, executive director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association. "Guys have been able to come into the fishery slow, save bait resources, fuel resources for what they're really going to need it," McCarron said. □

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# Tiny beetles munch through endangered songbird habitat

By FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press

CLARKDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

Matt Johnson treks along an Arizona riverbank and picks out a patch of yellow-tinged tamarisks. He sweeps a cloth net across the trees, hoping to scoop up beetles that munch on their evergreen-like leaves. He counts spiders, ants and leafhoppers among the catch and few beetles or their larvae.

"Their numbers are really low," the Northern Arizona University researcher said.

That the tiny beetles brought to the U.S. from Asia in an experiment to devour invasive, water-sucking tamarisks showed up at the Verde River in central Arizona is no surprise. But it's further evidence they're spreading faster than once anticipated and eventually could pervade the Southwest U.S., raising the risk for wildfires and allowing less time to uproot the tamarisks, also called salt cedars, and replacing them with native trees.

Without those efforts, drying foliage can spark wildfires and an endangered songbird that nests in tamarisk might not have a home. The federal program to use the beetles to chew up



This April 2009 photo provided by the Colorado Department of Agriculture shows tamarisk leaf beetles along the Colorado River in southern Utah. The beetles were brought to the U.S. from Asia to devour invasive tamarisk, or salt cedar, trees.

Associated Press

tamarisk trees began as an experiment in rural Nevada in 2001 and was approved for more widespread use in 2005, as long as they were at least 200 miles (322 kilometers) from Southwestern willow flycatcher territory. It ended in 2010 as the beetles intruded on the birds' habitat. An unpermitted release in southern Utah also helped the insects spread into Arizona.

Johnson believes the quarter-inch (6 millimeter) bee-

gles hitchhiked to the Verde River on clothing, a backpack or a boat. Normally, they are wind travelers but would have had to catch quite a gust to get to the river from the closest drainage where they've been recorded, he said.

Johnson has sent samples to a geneticist in Colorado to determine if the beetles can be traced to a population north of Arizona or a subtropical one from Texas that multiplies quicker.

Arizona once was projected to be too hot for the beetles to survive, but they've evolved as they've expanded their reach. Dan Bean with the Colorado Department of Agriculture found even more this summer in far southwestern Arizona along the California border, where temperatures regularly top 100 degrees (38 Celsius).

The concern now is the beetles firmly establishing themselves in the Gila, Salt

and San Pedro watersheds, which have higher concentrations of flycatcher habitat.

The beetles aren't known to feast on anything other than tamarisks, though one beetle can't eat much on its own. In the thousands, they can consume entire trees, Bean said.

The tamarisk leaves can grow back within the season, but repeated attacks can be fatal for the trees — a welcome result in places flycatchers don't live.

The browning leaves from beetle attacks increase the likelihood of a wildfire start. The highly flammable trees are notorious for burning hot and black when they're alive. Once they die, they are more fire-resistant, research shows.

Ben Bloodworth works with Rivers Edge West, formerly the Tamarisk Coalition, which has been tracking the beetles' movement for years. The group has mapped the beetles along the Green River in Utah, the Rio Grande and Pecos River in New Mexico and Texas, the Arkansas River in Colorado, the Colorado River — a major source of water for 40 million people in seven Western states — and other waterways. □

# Frog population explodes in region of Vermont

By LISA RATHKE

SALISBURY, Vt. (AP) —

A wet spring has caused one frog population to explode in an area of Vermont where throngs of the amphibians have been hopping through fields and lawns, darting across roads and getting flattened by cars and tractors.

University of Vermont herpetology lecturer James Andrews estimates that the

population of the northern leopard frog has leaped a hundredfold in a region near the Otter Creek in Addison County.

"People who have been here you know 30 years or more say they have never seen this many frogs," said Andrews, who is also coordinator of The Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas and lives in the town of Salisbury, where a mass of

frogs has emerged. "And it's a result, I think, of not only the perfect storm of conditions this year but also as a result of climate change, the amount of extra moisture that we're getting in this area in general."

Rainfall — or a lack of it — can have big impacts on amphibian populations, said John Kanter, a senior wildlife biologist at the National Wildlife Federation. The region of Salisbury and some surrounding towns near the Otter Creek had a wet spring, and some fields held water into July.

The northern leopard frog lays its eggs in the grassy flood plains of the creek; normally many of those eggs would have dehydrated as fields dried out, but that didn't happen this

year. Then a warm spell sped up the development of the young tadpoles, which transformed into frogs just as the fields were drying out, according to Andrews.

"We had this wave of hundreds of thousands of frogs that successfully metamorphosed," Andrews said. "And over the last week, week and a half, they have moved out a mile, mile and a half maybe, two miles in that direction. You can see the dead frog remains on the road."

Andrews and others counted 400,000 dead frogs on a half-mile stretch of road. The dried-up carnage is still visible and odorous along the road while dark specks in the pavement show where many other frogs

were crushed.

"They're just all over the fields," said LeeAnn Goodrich, of her family's farm. "Even my husband who's been here since he was a child has said the same thing — that he's never seen this many frogs."

The small, young, bright green frogs with brown spots aren't hard to spot. They leap up in fields like popcorn but also are swift and hard to catch. But the population has started to disperse. And no doubt they will be a bounty for wildlife. "This should be advantage for fish, for herons, for ducks, for hawks, for owls, snakes, raccoons, skunks, opossum," said Andrews. "This should just be a buffet essentially for lots of wildlife." □

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# Cruz-Diez, Venezuelan pioneer of kinetic art, dies in Paris

By JORGE RUEDA  
CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA  
Associated Press  
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Carlos Cruz-Diez, a leading Venezuelan artist who won international acclaim for his work with color and the style known as kinetic art, has died in Paris. He was 95.

"Your love, your joy, your teachings and your colors, will remain forever in our hearts," said a family statement posted on Cruz-Diez's art foundation website. It did not give a cause of his death on Saturday and said funeral services will be private.

Cruz-Diez developed a reputation as one of Latin America's most prominent artists in the second half of the 20th century. His installations have been featured in major international art museums and public spaces. His work has recently been on display in exhibitions in Paris, London, Saudi Arabia and Panama, his website said.

"Nobody understood the mystery of color like him," Venezuelan writer Leonardo Padrón said on Twitter. "Your work transcended barriers and filled us with pride as Venezuelans," said opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who is in a power struggle with President Nicolás Maduro as the country endures a humanitarian crisis.

"I'm not from the past, I'm from today," Cruz-Diez said in an interview with The Associated Press in New York in 2008.

He said he defined himself as an "explorer."

Cruz-Diez explored "the ambiguity of color," sometimes creating art with transparent strips of material that filtered light and showed different color combinations to viewers moving around his artwork, his website said. Cruz-Diez studied art in Caracas and, after graduating, worked as an artistic director for the U.S. advertising agency then known as McCann Erickson and illustrator for Venezuela's El Nacional newspaper.

In 1957, he founded a visual arts school in Caracas



In this Sept. 10, 2008, file photo, Venezuelan artist Carlos Cruz-Diez talks about his Physichromie no. 500 in New York.

Associated Press

and moved to Paris two years later to pursue art. He made his home in France,

teaching and eventually becoming a French citizen in 2008.

"Art always inspired me. But in my youth, and I think this happens to a lot of Latin

Americans, one feels marginalized, the world of art was always distant for us," Cruz-Diez told the AP in another interview in 2009.

Latin America was in a state of "cultural dependence" early in his career, he said.

"We went to Europe to look for information. Impressionism and other movements reached us 30 or 40 years late," he said.

Cruz-Diez was born in Caracas on Aug. 17, 1923 and his work was incorporated into the city as it expanded with the help of Venezuela's booming oil industry, starting in the 1970s. His stunning, chromatic work on the floor of the international airport was unveiled at a time when the building was an icon of modernity. □

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# 'Art of Self-Defense' examines, satirizes toxic masculinity

By LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Director Riley Stearns says he didn't realize he was making a perfect movie for 2019 when he started writing "The Art of Self-Defense" four years ago. But his darkly comedic riff on toxic masculinity starring Jesse Eisenberg as a timid and "weak" man who takes up karate just kept becoming more relevant. The Har-

vey Weinstein allegations broke during the shoot in 2017 and the #MeToo movement became a phenomenon. "It was kind of weird that this idea that I had been feeling was very personal to me was really starting to spread into a direct discussion," Stearns said. "More and more people are relating to the film in ways that I originally wouldn't have intended, which is hugely



This image released by Bleecker Street shows Jesse Eisenberg in a scene from "The Art of Self-Defense."

Associated Press

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			<p><b>PERFECTLY SINGLE</b></p> <p>TORREI HART   OMAR GOODING</p> <p>PH MON-FRI 4:45</p> <p>SAT-SUN 2:25   4:45</p>	<p><b>dolor y gloria</b></p> <p>ANTONIO BANDERAS   PENÉLOPE CRUZ</p> <p>BEST ACTOR ANTONIO BANDERAS</p> <p>PBP MON-SUN 8:30</p>
<p><b>STUBER</b></p> <p>DAVE BAUTISTA   KUMAIL NANJIANI</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>PH MON-THU 5:00   7:10   9:20</p> <p>FRI 5:00   7:10   9:20   11:30</p> <p>SAT 2:50   5:00   7:10   9:20   11:30</p> <p>SUN 2:50   5:00   7:10   9:20</p>	<p><b>SPIDER-MAN Far From Home</b></p> <p>TOM HOLLAND   SAMUEL L. JACKSON</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13)</p> <p>PH MON-FRI 5:50   8:40</p> <p>SAT-SUN 3:00   5:50   8:40</p> <p>PBP MON-SUN 12:55   3:40   6:25   9:10</p>	<p><b>CRAWL</b></p> <p>KAYA SCODELARIO   BARRY PEPPER</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>PBP MON-THU &amp; SUN 1:05   3:10   5:15   7:20   9:25</p> <p>FRI-SAT 1:05   3:10   5:15   7:20   9:25   11:30</p>	<p><b>ANNABELLE COMES HOME</b></p> <p>VERA FARMIGA   PATRICK WILSON</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>PH MON-SUN 7:05   9:35</p>	<p><b>TOY STORY 4</b></p> <p>TOM HANKS   TIM ALLEN</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p>PBP MON-SUN 1:15   3:40   6:05</p>

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humbling and very interesting to see." "The Art of Self-Defense" is currently in 540 theaters nationwide, where it's finding a healthy audience amid all the flashier blockbusters and superhero films in the multiplex. Eisenberg's character Casey Davies is mocked even for his "feminine" sounding name. After getting brutally beaten one night by horde of masked motorcyclists, he stumbles on a local dojo run by an over-the-top alpha played by Alessandro Nivola and signs up for classes. And things take an unexpectedly dark turn. "There's an absurdity to him because he's timid in such an extreme way and aggressive in such an extreme way," Eisenberg

said. "Casey is a product of this very unusual world. As much as I loved the character I also loved the world he exists in which is a world where people speak in this very unusual, blunt, earnest way." Imogen Poots plays the film's sole main female character, an instructor at the dojo who despite all her skills has not been promoted to black belt. Stearns did this knowingly, but also made a concerted effort to make sure his below the line team was predominantly women. "It's a film about men, starring men, written by a man. Everything about it was so overtly masculine, which I knew, I was making fun of it, but still at the end of the day was not going to be on the side of films passing the

Bechdel Test," Stearns said. "My intent then was to say, let's find the best people for the job to take on these department head jobs but also really try to focus on finding the best women for the jobs as well, to really try to counteract that. I just knew I didn't want it to be a set full of men. It was really important for me to have that female perspective." Both Stearns and Eisenberg see some of the changes happening in the industry as many wake up to the injustices women have been subject to for too long. Soon after filming "The Art of Self-Defense," Eisenberg found himself on the set of "The Hummingbird Project," with Salma Hayek and Erika Rosenbaum, who both allege Weinstein sexually harassed them. □

## K.Fl原因 celebrates all her sides on CD 'Solutions'

By MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

K.Fl原因, "Solutions" (Night Street Records/Interscope) It's always been hard to pin down K.Fl原因's music. She's a bit of a sonic chameleon, mixing elements of hip-hop, rock and indie pop with moods that go from brash to introspective. You'll get no clear answers after listening to her new album "Solutions" — thankfully. K.Fl原因, the stage name of

Illinois-raised Kristine Flaherty, starts her third studio CD with the wonderfully autobiographical statement song "I Like Myself (Most of the Time)" and ends with a wistful tune about her father, "DNA." In between, we get to celebrate all the gloriously different sides of an artist who resists getting boxed up in one genre. There's The B-52-ish "This Baby Don't Cry" and the Lorde-adjacent "Bad

Vibes." She channels Weezer on the environmentally conscious "Not in California" and practically raps on "Good News." Her thrilling vocals range from babyish to Joan Jett-ish. K.Fl原因, whose biggest hit to date is her 2017 "Blood in the Cut," got a song on the TV show "Riverdale" and has been featured on songs by X Ambassadors, Tom Morello and Mike Shinoda. □





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**'Elvis in Vegas' is a gem of pop culture history**

By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL  
Associated Press

"Elvis in Vegas: How the King Reinvented the Las Vegas Show" (Simon & Schuster), by Richard Zoglin

For the King of Rock 'n' Roll, the 1960s was a slow-moving abdication.

Elvis Presley spent the better part of that decade appearing in one silly movie after another instead of performing live, a career strategy that tested the patience of his fans and cost him his edge in the music world. Meanwhile, The Beatles and the rest of the British invasion bands were redefining popular music just as he had done years earlier.

In 1969 Elvis decided he wanted to regain his throne. "Elvis in Vegas" is author Richard Zoglin's fascinating tale of how the king got his groove back and Las Vegas refreshed its own image, together supersizing live entertainment in Amer-

ica's adult playground. Blending new interviews with top-drawer research focusing on how Las Vegas evolved as the pleasure capital, Zoglin produces a gem of pop culture history. For the promoters of Las Vegas in the 1930s, live music was just another way to attract visitors to the desert, following in the footsteps of saloons, prostitution, easy divorce and gambling. After World War II, high-class hotels like the Flamingo, the Thunderbird and the Desert Inn made their debuts with the help of mobsters eager to invest in an all-cash industry ripe for exploitation. Hotels offered headliners — among them singers Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald and Mel Tormé — and soon Vegas was tops in nightclub-style entertainment. The 1950s and '60s were golden years for the city in the desert. Besides hearing songs from Rosemary Clooney, Vic Damone, Dinah

Shore and others, visitors could see first-rate comedians (Shecky Greene, Don Rickles, Buddy Hackett, Bob Newhart), film and TV favorites (Danny Kaye, Milton Berle, Red Skelton, Ginger Rogers, Betty Hutton, Van Johnson), and musical reviews featuring barely dressed if not topless showgirls. A future president had a Vegas gig at one time: actor Ronald Reagan, whose opening act was a group of performing chimps.

Eventually, even the stars who came to define Vegas cool — chief among them Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and the rest of the Rat Pack — faced in the early 1960s the same problem that would confront Elvis at the decade's end: a creaky act and increasingly creaky fans as tastes in music and comedy changed.

Elvis was no stranger to Vegas. He had been a fish out

of water when he first performed there, in 1956, and with just one hit, "Heartbreak Hotel," to his credit. Rock 'n' roll wasn't what the typical Vegas patron sought at the time and the gig fizzled. But Elvis the man loved the all-day, all-night quality of the city and would frequently visit between movies.

Thirteen years and millions of records later, Elvis chose Las Vegas for his return to live performing. He pulled out all the stops at the International Hotel and, in Zoglin's words, "established a new template for the Las Vegas show: no longer an intimate, sophisticated, Sinatra-style nightclub act, but a big rock concert-like spectacle." Two backup singing groups, a rhythm band, a full orchestra plus the indefatigable Elvis — "the star," writes Zoglin, "was now his own spectacle." For two shows a night for four weeks, this star filled every



This cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows "Elvis in Vegas: How the King Reinvented the Las Vegas Show," by Richard Zoglin.

Associated Press

seat.

Vegas revitalized Elvis' career — he returned twice a year to repeat his initial success — and he showed the town the way forward for continuing to attract people with money in their pockets. □



# College music department resurrects long-lost funk music

By KRISTEN DE GROOT

Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Back in the summer of 2005, Drexel University's Music Industry program got a very curious phone call.

On the line was the owner of a storage facility in Philadelphia, wondering if the school would be interested in thousands of music studio tapes, seemingly abandoned in a unit for which no rent had been collected in a long time.

The man said the tapes all had the same labels on the side: Sigma Sound Studio.

For aficionados of Philadelphia funk, that's a famous name. In the 1960s and 1970s, Sigma Sound helped create "The Sound of Philadelphia" — the funky soul sound characterized by lush instrumental arrangements often featuring strings and horns. The studio churned out hits like The Trammps' "Disco Inferno" and The Three Degrees' "When Will I See You Again." Many Gamble and Huff hits were recorded there, including The O'Jays' "Love Train."

No one knew the specific items in the stash, but Drexel's music industry program definitely wanted it, said Professor Toby Seay, project director of the university's audio archives.

"The thought was if there are 7,000 tapes coming from the Sigma collection, there's gotta be good stuff in there," he said.

Good stuff indeed. A reel from David Bowie's recording sessions at the studio



In this May 8, 2019 photo shown is a reel from from a Nat Turner Rebellion recording session at the Sigma Sound Studio, at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

while getting together his 1974 "Young Americans" album; tracks from Teddy Pendergrass, Sly Stone, Patti LaBelle, Gladys Knight and Stevie Wonder. As Seay and students slogged through the collection, working to digitize it, there was always the lingering possibility of discovering unheard and unreleased gems. Seay came upon just that in 2011, when he pulled a tape named "Nat Turner Rebellion" off the shelf.

"The song was called 'Tribute to a Slave' and it blew me away," he said of the 1969 recording that packed power, politics and Philly funk and soul. He filed it away and made a note to keep an eye out for more of the band named

after an 1831 slave revolt. Fast forward eight years, and the band's unreleased album "Laugh to Keep From Crying" was released in March on Drexel's student-run MAD Dragon Records label — some 50 years after it was recorded. A New York Times review calls it "a greeting across eras ... vintage socially conscious, tambourine-shaking funk." From 1969 to 1972, the Nat Turner Rebellion recorded for Philly Groove Records, which released a few singles, and opened for the chart-topping Delfonics. The band, led by Joseph Jefferson, broke up after what Jefferson described to the Philadelphia Inquirer as a spat with band member Bill Spratley, who he said pulled a gun on him during an argument over money.

Afterward, Jefferson went on to write a string of hits for other bands, including "One of a Kind (Love Affair)" for the Spinners.

"There was not a thought in my mind that this could have happened," Jefferson told the newspaper after the Nat Turner album's release. "This is what I wanted. Just the recognition for this." At 75, he's the last surviving member of the group.

It wasn't exactly simple getting the album together. In 2012, Reservoir Media Management acquired

Philly Groove Records. Reservoir's Faith Newman discovered more Nat Turner Rebellion tapes. The following year, Newman tracked down Jefferson on Facebook and got his permission to move forward with an album, Seay said. She collaborated with Drexel to assemble it.

"I wanted to put something out commercially that was viable, and that's where the archives come in," said

Marc Offenbach, a music industry veteran who now teaches at the university. His students developed a marketing plan and a social media strategy. Working with Vinyl Me, Please, which is a record subscription service, the students were able to produce the album on vinyl as well as digitally, lending a 1970s-era authenticity to the project. They pressed 5,000 albums, which he said sold out.

"The greatest lesson is that we are actually making a profit," he said. "Just loving the band doesn't work. It's a business."

So far, students and Seay have listened to and digitized only about 10 percent of the music in the collection.

"The students there are probably not even aware of the significance of what they are doing," said Dave Moore, a music historian and Philadelphia soul expert who co-authored "There's That Beat! Guide to the Philly Sound" with Jason Thornton. "But they should have our grateful thanks for what they do in ensuring this music can be preserved and enjoyed for generations to come." □



In this May 8, 2019 photo shown is a reel from Stevie Wonder's recording sessions at the Sigma Sound Studio, at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Associated Press



In this May 8, 2019 photo Marc Offenbach Assistant Teaching Professor, Music Industry at Drexel University poses for a portrait with music studio tapes from the Sigma Sound Studio collection, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press